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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- TerryWhite Chemmart
- Glucojel

Red beans offer

GOLDCROSS Glucojel Jelly Beans will sweeten this summer's deals with a red hot offer for this month.

See more on the **back page**.

FIP global report

POINT-OF-CARE testing in community pharmacies is becoming more common, according to a new report by the International Pharmaceutical Federation published last week.

The report brings together evidence from a literature review, findings from a survey of 25 countries, 11 case studies, and other insights **HERE**.

Amcal opens new compounding site

A **NEW** Amcal + Bakers Compounding Pharmacy has opened in Toowoomba, Qld, on the site of an older pharmacy which served the local community for over 60 years, to address the severe shortage of compounding pharmacies.

Kinjal Patel, the owner and pharmacist of the new business, with over 12 years of industry experience and who previously owned three other pharmacies, was excited about the offering and service at the new Amcal + Bakers Compounding Pharmacy, located at 141 Taylor Street in Newtown.

"We know that there is only one compounding pharmacy currently servicing more than 160,000 people in the area, so we expect there will be strong demand for our compounding services, but what comes with the Amcal brand is a strong commitment to providing a range of healthcare services for our customers along with the best health and beauty products," he explained.



"Toowoomba is a fabulous community, and I grew up here.

"It is a great privilege to be able to open this brand new pharmacy committed to looking after my local community.

"I look forward to meeting as many locals as I can at the official store opening today and also as many members of the entire community in the months and years to come," Patel said.

The former Bakers Pharmacy was chosen to begin its new life as an Amcal Pharmacy after a significant store refit and is now open to customers seven days a week and

offers home delivery, click and collect, medication packaging and compounding services.

The official ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the store will be held today by pharmacist Elton Thompson who ran the Bakers Pharmacy for over 40 years.

To celebrate the store opening, the new Amcal + Bakers Compounding Pharmacy is offering 20% off products store-wide with lucky draw raffle prizes and three \$100 gift cards up for grabs. *JG*

Pictured (L-R): Dipali and Kinjal Patel, and staff Nicola Bradshaw, and Michelle Hartwell.



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Room for support to bloom in Mudgee



A GIDGET House has opened inside Blooms The Chemist in Mudgee, NSW, and is taking bookings for free counselling services to help parents experiencing perinatal depression and anxiety.

Gidget House, an initiative by Gidget Foundation Australia, is a place where expectant and new parents can receive free counselling with a GP referral and mental healthcare plan.

Blooms Mudgee has a dedicated counselling room for Gidget's exclusive use donated by the pharmacy network.

Owner pharmacist, Sally Whiting (pictured) said, "by forming trusting relationships customers were encouraged to open up and since bookings opened in early Nov, we have had several calls to find out how they can access counselling - this is very welcome support in regional Australia".

RACGP slams SA decision

THE Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has spoken out against expanded pharmacy prescribing powers in South Australia.

It comes following the Govt's announcement that from Mar next year, women aged 18 to 65 suffering from a urinary tract infection (UTI) will be able to access antibiotics from pharmacists.

Women will also be able to obtain a resupply of their oral contraceptive pill from their pharmacy (PD 20 Nov).

Earlier this year, the RACGP President Dr Nicole Higgins and South Australian Chair Dr Sian Goodson spoke out at a Parliamentary Select Committee hearing on why expanding pharmacist prescribing is not the right call, with Higgins commenting, "GPs and practice teams have nothing but respect for the vital role that pharmacists perform in communities; however, they simply do not have the training and expertise to diagnose and prescribe these drugs, and a retail setting is not a suitable environment for these consultations".

"Govts must keep in mind that all GPs in South Australia and across the country complete over a decade of training to diagnose and manage patients and treat conditions such as UTIs."

RACGP South Australia Chair Dr Sian Goodson backed the President's comments.

"The fact that this week is World Antimicrobial Awareness Week and that WHO has declared

antibiotic resistance a global health emergency highlights just why this decision is not in the best interests of patients," she remarked.

As the College warned, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has also urged judicious prescribing of antibiotics for a range of health conditions including UTIs.

"So, with this decision we are heading in exactly the wrong direction because introducing more non-medical prescribers of antibiotics through pharmacies risks undercutting our efforts to fight antimicrobial resistance."

One example Goodson cited is a 2021 study that found a "huge increase" in topical chloramphenicol prescribing after it was rescheduled to Pharmacist-Only in 2010.

"Expanding pharmacist prescribing runs the risk of disrupting continuity of care, as a GP will not know what the pharmacist is prescribing for their patient and vice versa.

"If the Govt is determined to press ahead, we recommend they consult closely with medical groups, including the RACGP, to make pharmacist-antibiotic prescribing as safe as possible," Goodson added.

In Western Australia, the RACGP stated it was able to provide crucial feedback on antibiotic choice, exclusion criteria, record keeping and mandating that the dispensing record be transmitted to My Health Record, she explained.

"It's far from ideal, but it is certainly better than nothing." JG

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Early blood test

AUSTRALIAN researchers are working to develop the first early-detection blood test for pancreatic cancer.

Pancreatic cancer is one of Australia's biggest killers, with poor survival rates marred by a lack of distinct symptoms and screening tools needed to detect the disease in its early stages, said researchers at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI).

It's hoped the test one day will accurately identify patients with early stages of pancreatic cancer - a crucial step towards improving survival rates and quality of life for patients.

The blood test is based on a critical WEHI discovery of proteins that can identify early pancreatic cancer in patients.

Currently, there are no early detection biomarkers for the disease, said Project lead and oncologist Dr Belinda Lee.

"We have identified 13 proteins that could distinguish between the early and late stages of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma, and we hope to validate them to reliably screen for early disease."

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Travel & Cruise Weekly

Dispensary Corner

CANADA'S capital city Ottawa is trying to shed its "party pooper image" and is looking for someone to preside over the city's nightlife, *WSJ* has reported.

Ottawa, fairly or not, is known as "the city that fun forgot," a moniker penned over four decades ago by the late Canadian political commentator and satirist Allan Fotheringham, and the label has stuck.

Municipal officials want to turn that image around with an Ottawa Nightlife Economy Action Plan (with the fun-sounding acronym of ONEAP).

Ottawa is also looking to hire someone to preside over the city's nightlife.

The job title is still to be determined, with officials tossing around ideas such as night mayor, nightlife commissioner or night czar.

Some Ottawa-area residents say that person has their work cut out for them.

"If the average person comes to visit Ottawa, they'll just ask, 'Where are all the people?'" commented Amen Jafri, a federal govt employee and documentary filmmaker.

Her first project, released nearly a decade ago, focused on why Ottawa lacked verve.

The title - "The City That Fun Forgot?" had subjects interviewed for the 33-minute film who described Ottawa as "a good place for a long nap".

Jafri said the film's message remains intact a decade later.

"People get mad at me for saying this, but I don't think much has changed in Ottawa."

On-point skin messaging

GLOBAL expert in sun protection, La Roche-Posay unveiled its new custom-built, mobile Skin Check Clinic at Bondi Beach this week, aiming to provide 1,000 complementary skin checks during National Skin Cancer Action Week (19-26 Nov), in collaboration with long-time partner Australian early skin cancer detection charity, Skin Check Champions.

The commencement of La Roche-Posay's national skin check pop-ups tour coincided with the brand's new creative campaign called 'Your Skin Remembers', which highlights the cumulative impact of sun exposure over time.

The campaign also underlines the critical role that regular skin checks play in early detection, therefore reducing skin cancer and the long-term impacts of incidental sun exposure, which is a grave concern



for Australians with two in three developing skin cancer before the age of 70 years.

Speaking to *Pharmacy Daily* at last night's event to explain the key messages about the campaign, Skin Check Champions CEO Scott Maggs (pictured right with celebrities Deborah Hutton and Erin Deering) said, "pharmacists could help start a conversation with an authentic story of early detection and survival to get typically young men who are most resistant to using sunscreens to listen and get skin checks". *JG*

Win with Crampeze

Crampeze and Pharmacy Daily are giving away a \$50 Prezzy Card every day this week!

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- A. True
- B. False

Guild Update

ODT deadline looms

PHARMACISTS are being reminded that the deadline to lodge claims for the Opioid Dependence Treatment (ODT) program is 30 Nov.

During the rollout of the ODT program it was noted that given the short implementation time, deadlines were initially not imposed, stated the Guild.

However, now pharmacists who provided services for the ODT program between 01 Jul and 31 Oct are required to submit their claims by 30 Nov.

For services provided after 31 Oct, claims must be submitted by the end of the following calendar month.

Therefore, claims for services provided in Nov must be submitted by 31 Dec.

The new ODT Community Pharmacy Program came into effect on 01 Jul of this year and was designed to make treatment more affordable and accessible for all patients in Australia.

The Pharmacy Guild added that the changes mean that ODT medicines under the PBS are available under the Section 100 Highly Specialised Drugs Program arrangements.

Patients using the ODT program are only charged the maximum PBS co-payment of \$30 for 28 days' supply of medicine, Guild concluded.

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Chris Theodore

TWC North Brighton, VIC, joined in 2019



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