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For use when iron deficiency or iron deficiency anaemia has been diagnosed by your doctor and a therapeutic iron supplement is recommended. Always read the label and follow the directions for use. If symptoms persist, worsen or change unexpectedly, talk to your health professional. *Vitamin C has been shown to enhance the absorption of iron when taken together.



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature.

Shutters down

US PHARMACY chain Rite Aid is shuttering an additional 31 stores in a dozen states, according to a recent bankruptcy court filing.

The company told *USA Today* that more than 150 other store closures were announced last month when it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Rite Aid spokesperson Catherine Carter said the stores that will be closing have been underperforming and will be closed "to further reduce rent expense and strengthen overall financial performance of the group".

The company plans to give workers the option to transfer to other locations.

UTS Barometer shows "we are coping"

CONFIDENCE in the value of pharmacy as a business has lifted back up to pre-COVID levels, revealed the latest University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Barometer yesterday.

The 13th UTS Community Pharmacy Barometer, which tracks the perceptions of the viability of the pharmacy business, surveyed 250 pharmacy decision-makers to reveal that confidence has lifted by over 30 points from the last report to come in at 110.4 (**PD** 12 Jul).

Lead researcher and UTS Head of Pharmacy Charlie Benrimoj said the data tool shows that pharmacists surveyed have "reacted to changes, are adjusting, and feel that they are going to cope".

"But the first key message is that we have recovered something like 30 of the 50 points we dropped in May this year (**PD** 14 Jul)".

The reasons for this confidence are varied and the majority of decision-makers in this research have implemented at least one



strategy to help cope, he added.

"Most of the pharmacy decision-makers surveyed have implemented at least one strategy to overcome the perceived negative impact of the 60-Day Dispensing policy, with the most common strategies being to charge for professional services that were previously free, increasing the range of professional services on offer, and reducing the working hours of pharmacy assistants and other staff," Benrimoj commented.

Main services added on are the Govt-driven ones specifically

vaccinations, prescribing to treat UTIs and the resupply of oral contraception for women.

The services discontinued are those that were not remunerated such as blood pressure checks and free delivery, some diabetes initiatives and webster packing.

Unsurprisingly, the services added are the ones where funding is available from the Govt such as vaccinations, dispensing medication for UTIs, and oral contraception.

The main free initiatives that pharmacists have started charging for are delivery and documentation certification, blood pressure checks and webster packing.

Another strategy implemented is that prices have been increased to cope with the loss of revenue due to 60DD, Benrimoj explained.

The decision-makers surveyed are also taking steps that include reducing staff and hours, cutting down on pharmacy assistants, and reducing after hours on weekends, he concluded. JG

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Editor's choice: quirky brunch-themed makeup range in stores

PRICELINE Pharmacy has launched its third makeup collaboration between MPCosmetics and brand ambassador Tanya Hennessy.

The 'Breakfast at Hennessy's' limited edition collection is free spirited yet classic, just like its movie muse Holly Golightly, explained Priceline.

It features quirky and vibrant brunch-themed makeup and bath & body must-haves at price points that are suitable as Christmas stocking fillers.

The range follows in the footsteps of Hennessy's previous collabs, the sellout 'The Carb Collection' launched in 2019 and 'The Carb Collection Again' launched in 2021.

Hennessy said, "it's no secret that my two true loves are breakfast buffets and makeup".

"This collection is a little bit classy, fun, and accessible for all," she added.

"While classics like the tubing mascara are back, I've also introduced newness in bubble bath and bath fizzers."

Priceline Pharmacy Head of Beauty Jenna Edebohls added, "I'm expecting the 'Breakfast at Hennessy's' collection to sell like hotcakes, as Tanya knows how to create makeup that's on trend and accessible".

"These products will take you from bath to brunch to bar with their quality formulations," assured Edebohls.



Spot the spot tour is on



LA ROCHE-POSAY has unveiled its new custom-built, mobile Skin Check Clinic at Bondi Beach, Sydney, aiming to provide 1,000 complimentary skin checks during National Skin Cancer Action Week, in collaboration with long-time partner and Australian early skin cancer detection charity, Skin Check Champions.

The charity's trained skin check nurses will be conducting the full-body skin checks in two private consultation rooms within the new state-of-the-art, 20m² mobile Skin Check Clinic as well as in four additional pop-up rooms as part of a national skin check tour that will continue throughout 2024, with a target of providing 5,000 skin checks by the end of next year.

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

The brand's campaign also underlines the critical role that regular skin checks play in early detection, thereby reducing skin cancer and the long-term impacts of incidental sun exposure, as concerning two in three Aussies will develop skin cancer before the age of 70 years.

Tackles tough acne

SWISSE Blemish Remedy Fast-Acting Drying Lotion is a targeted, triple-action anti-acne treatment that has been co-developed with a dermatologist.

The lotion is expertly formulated with active levels of sulfur, salicylic acid, and zinc oxide to tackle stubborn acne spots, minimise redness, and prevent new breakouts by gently exfoliating the skin and unclogging pores.

It can be used on the face, chest and back, and left on overnight for more stubborn breakouts.

The product retails for \$29.99.



Santa-like sacks are here to suit all budgets

THE Natio Nurturing Rose gift set (RRP: \$64.95) contains a full-size Rosewater Hydration Antioxidant Micellar Cleansing Water, Gentle Cream-Gel Face Cleanser, Rosewater Drench Mineral Face Mist, Moisture Boost Day Cream-Gel and complimentary Natio microfibre hair wrap, presented in a medium-sized Natio tote bag for pharmacy customers searching for that ideal present for someone special this Christmas.

Presented in a complimentary large-size Natio tote bag, the Natio Bush Canopy gift set (RRP: \$49.95) contains a full-size Spirit Lemon Myrtle + Banksia Body Wash, Kakadu Plum + Almond Body Lotion, Hemp + Muntries Hardworking Hand Cream and



Tassie Kelp + Aloe Cooling Soothing Gel.

The Natio Rose Glow Gift Set (RRP: \$34.95) contains a full-size Rosewater Hydration Gentle Cream-Gel Face Cleanser, Moisture Recharge Night Cream-Gel and complimentary Natio satin pillowcase in a Natio gift box.

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Beauty & Wellness
by Pharmacy Daily

Dispensary Corner

WHAT a Christmas some kids are going to have in the US, where a school in Richmond, Virginia, has enacted a policy barring all candy from campus. It followed an incident where students were found "in medical distress" at the Armstrong High School school after eating edibles believed to contain hemp last month. The first of its kind policy stops students from bringing candy of any kind to school, as well as home-baked or home-cooked items such as rice crispy treats or any chocolate-covered food. Stores in the area are selling hemp-derived products and their popularity has skyrocketed, "due to widespread availability, easy access, and potential to produce intoxicating effects comparable to marijuana", according to the Virginia Cannabis Control Authority. "I feel like it's messed up, I get it, with the incident that happened, but they don't need to punish all the kids," said one irritated student.

Asthma deaths up

NEW Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows that asthma deaths are once again on the rise, with a jump of over 30% in one year, stated the National Asthma Council Australia (NAC) yesterday. The figures show that there were 467 asthma-related deaths recorded in Australia in 2022, made up of 299 females and 168 males, up from 355 deaths in 2021. An over-reliance on salbutamol is a potential reason for the deaths, added NAC's Debbie Rigby.

Vape bans need tweaking

THE recent bans on vape products can work with some "sensible policy tweaks", according to a manufacturer of Australian-standard therapeutic vape products (PD 29 Nov). From the fields Pharmaceutical CEO Wilhelm David said he supports a pragmatic solution with nicotine vaping products under a therapeutics goods framework. "This health policy's success requires greater support by GPs to prescribe the therapeutic product, ongoing transparency in the vaping black market, regulated vape product improvements around flavours, menthol concentrations and the role disposable vapes play in smoking cessation strategies." Statements by the AMA in supporting these reforms are welcome, he added, but it is now "imperative more GPs are authorised and able to prescribe these therapeutic products". "Govts need to support pharmacy distribution and the role doctors play in prescribing and selling vape products over the near term. "This is because the illicit black market for illegal vapes and its players continue to have a window to trade," David warned.

With single-use disposable vapes being banned, he said, "19% of all prescriptions written for pharmacy dispensing are disposable vapes and one in two scripts are for flavoured products". Over 80% of Australian adults who vape use fruit-flavoured vapes such as mango, blueberry, apple, along with mint and tobacco. "We will continue to urge the TGA and the Govt to consider adopting a greater number of simple flavours, at realistic percentages, and formulating the products with safe, quality ingredients that meet global leading emission standards. "The TGA proposal for menthol at 0.1% is extremely low for a smoker to transition to a therapeutic vape. "In fact, the taste would be almost undetectable at this level and a more appropriate 1.5% - 2% concentration ceiling is recommended," David explained. People need simple, easy-to-use therapeutic vape devices that doesn't involve complicated instructions, recharging or refilling of liquids, he added. "They include the elderly, homeless, prisoners and people with disabilities who struggle with a complex vaping device." JG

Grand opening



THE Platform Alliance Group celebrated the official opening of its third and latest Chemist Discount Centre location in the past two months in Bundaberg East, QLD. General Manager of Chemist Discount Centre Theo Gakelos said, "the community of Bundaberg East loves and appreciates the service that Andrew and Louise provide". "Bringing a new discount option to the town will help everyone to have better access to healthcare with great prices as well," he added. Managing pharmacist Andrew Greenwood and his wife Louise Greenwood (pictured with the CDC team) have been operating the pharmacy since 2016 with their son George, showing their dedication to the Bundaberg East community. Their business partner Ian Shanks knows the team will build on their past experiences and become a destination for healthcare and advice. The celebration included the grand opening of the store, discounted offers, loyalty benefits, goody bags and cupcakes for the community.

Bayer ANZ brands join PharmXchange

GLOBAL pharma Bayer ANZ is the latest major supplier to go live on the PharmXchange digital sales and marketing platform, launched in the middle of 2022. Ben Bynon, Head of Pharmacy and eCommerce of Bayer ANZ said, "the whole of market approach by PharmXchange is an exciting opportunity for Bayer to drive efficiencies for customers through the digitisation of the sales and ordering

process delivering more to our customers". Eric Moschietto, General Manager of PharmX Pty Ltd added, "Bayer is joining with its stable of 18 consumer health brands such as Berocca, Claratyne, Iberogast, Elevit, Canesten, and Drixine among others". "We are thrilled to be able to offer Australian pharmacies the opportunity to purchase Bayer ANZ brands from our platform."