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Today's issue of PD
Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature, plus full pages from:

- Dispense Assist
- Metagenics

Blooms raises \$2m for sick children

BLOOMS The Chemist has surpassed \$2 million in donations to Make-A-Wish Australia. The funds have been raised through a series of community-driven events aimed at helping the charity grant wishes for critically ill children around the country.



A standout contributor, the network's Miller pharmacy in New South Wales, has raised more than \$25,000 for the cause. The group's annual golf day has also played a pivotal role in fundraising for its charity partner. Reflecting on the milestone, Blooms CEO Emmanuel Vavoulas said, "the achievement is a testament to the kindness and generosity of our communities, network, and supplier partners". "The work Make-A-Wish Australia does for critically ill children and their families is life-changing, and as a network of community pharmacies, we are proud to support families across Australia in any way we can." Make-A-Wish Australia CEO Sally Bateman highlighted the importance of such partnerships,

stating, "raising over \$2 million is an extraordinary achievement that demonstrates the incredible effort and passion of the Blooms The Chemist team, customers, and pharmacy network".

"As an organisation that receives no government funding, partners like this are crucial in helping us grant wishes for critically ill kids. "We can bring more wishes to life for the 900 children currently on their Wish Journey, making a genuine difference in their lives."

**SMARTER
FASTER
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For example, recently Blooms The Chemist, Make-A-Wish and Destination NSW created a magical Vivid Sydney experience for one child called Hannah and her family. Additionally, funds raised from the sale of bauble tokens over

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2 **Soothes** symptoms
3 **Prevents** recurrence*

*For up to 3 months when used as directed

Staffing solution
DISPENSE Assist is a low-cost staffing solution with dispensary technicians available 24/7 at rates as low as \$6.37 per hour, for services that include compounding and DAAs, among others. To learn about the free trial on offer, and to register for the service, head to **page five**.

Expand your scope
METAGENICS' six-module accredited learning course is available for integrative pharmacists to expand their scope of practice. Learn how you can gain up to 17 CPD points for topics that include women's and digestive health, as well as how to open a product account on **page six**.

Pharmacy Connect **STAND 67**

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PSA calls to cut red tape for vax services

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is advocating for the removal of vaccination red tape and the harmonisation of pharmacist immunisation regulations.

The PSA argues that the *Australian Immunisation Handbook* should be adopted as the national standard for vaccine formularies, allowing pharmacists in every region to offer the same vaccines.

"Pharmacists are underutilised in many states and territories, with regulatory barriers preventing them from practicing to their full potential when providing vaccination services," said PSA National President, A/Prof Fei Sim.

The PSA believes that national harmonisation would not only improve access but also help achieve immunisation targets.

The recent approval of the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine further underscores the



importance of uniform access.

While available in some regions, residents of South Australia, Western Australia, and the Northern Territory do not yet have access to the RSV vaccine at local pharmacies, unlike other states.

"Leveraging the accessibility of pharmacists to administer a greater range of vaccines would hugely improve uptake and reduce hospitalisations from vaccine-preventable diseases," Sim added.

The PSA's *Pharmacists in 2030* outlines a roadmap for the future

of the profession, focusing on maximising pharmacists' potential to improve healthcare access.

Removing regulatory barriers is seen as a crucial first step.

Sim also urged pharmacists to use PSA resources, such as the Respiratory Syncytial Virus module, to stay updated on vaccination services as the Continuing Professional Development cycle ends on 30 Sep. *JG*

Pictured: Health Minister Mark Butler and Sim at PSA24 launching the *Pharmacists in 2030* report.

Financial support

SUBSIDY applications are now open for pharmacists in Queensland participating in the Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot.

Managed by the Australasian College of Pharmacy, the subsidies are part of a \$6 million govt initiative announced in Jun to support the Pilot's statewide rollout.

Eligible pharmacists can receive up to \$7,000 for completing various approved training courses within 18 months of enrolment.

College CEO Amanda Seeto urged pharmacists to apply, highlighting the support as a key incentive for expanding their scope of practice.

To learn more, **CLICK HERE**.

NSW UTI service listings need updating

PHARMACIES in New South Wales providing urinary tract infection (UTI) services are now required to maintain an updated listing on the National Health Services Directory (NHSD), in line with requirements.

Insurer Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL) stated that pharmacies should verify their UTI service listing by using the NHSD Service Finder, selecting 'pharmacy' and filtering by 'urinary tract infection treatment'.

If a pharmacy appears on the map after searching, it is already



compliant, stated PDL.

However, if a pharmacy is listed but does not show under UTI services, it must update its listing by contacting the NHSD team at nhsd@healthdirect.org.au.

PDL has informed that if a pharmacy is not listed at all, it needs to register with the NHSD via the online form found **HERE**, specifying UTI treatment as a service - to see more, **CLICK HERE**.

Elevate your work

THE Blackmores Institute's 11th Edition of the *Complementary Medicine Interactions Guide (CMIG)* is now available.

It offers health professionals a comprehensive reference for managing interactions between over 100 complementary medicine ingredients, and 500+ pharmaceutical drugs.

Key updates include 19 new complementary medicine ingredients, enhanced clinical guidelines, and an appendix detailing signs and symptoms of key interactions.

The CMIG is designed to support informed prescribing, optimised patient support, and risk mitigation in various clinical practices.

The resource empowers pharmacists and healthcare providers to make evidence-based decisions, enhancing patient safety and care through detailed monitoring recommendations and actionable advice.

Available exclusively to Blackmores Institute members, the CMIG aims to be easy to navigate, and accessible online or for download.

The practical tool draws from more than 1,000 references, providing pharmacists with the most popular searches, including ingredients like St John's wort, andrographis, and CoQ10.



Medicines Management 2024

14–16 November 2024
Adelaide, SA

Registration now open!

Early-bird closes Thursday 3 October

mm2024.shpa.org.au/register



Stan Grant

KEYNOTE

Editor's Choice: Say hello to sun-kissed makeup for summer

GLOBAL cosmetics brand, Revlon, has introduced a fresh blush range to its newest franchise, Illuminance.

Promising to add a bright pop of colour to the skin, Revlon Illuminance Gel Serum Blushes also help improve skin health over time.

The hydrating formula blends makeup and skincare into one, with 80% water-infused glycerin to penetrate the skin for ultimate all-day hydration.

"The easy-to-apply gel formulas glide on smoothly, blend evenly and hydrate all day leaving you with a dewy finish and healthy-looking glow," Revlon stated.

The Illuminance Gel Serum



Blushes are available in four different shades to suit every skin tone, including 'Beaming Coral', 'Striking Rose', 'Enchanting Mauve', and 'Brilliant Berry'.

The product can be purchased at pharmacies around Australia, including Chemist Warehouse and Priceline, for the recommended retail price of \$27.95.

Ego celebrates eco win



EGO Pharmaceuticals won a Silver medal at the 2024 Australasian Packaging Innovation & Design (PIDA) Awards last week, in recognition of its recent sustainable packaging redesign for the QV Face range.

The renewed packaging, which earned accolades in the Sustainable Packaging Design category, underscores Ego's commitment to minimising environmental impact.

The revamp resulted in an uptick in the percentage of recyclable packaging from 50.2% to 74.5%, while the overall packaging weight was reduced by 14%.

Around 13 tonnes of packaging will be diverted from landfill each year based on the volume of QV Face products delivered to the Australian market in FY 22/23.

Ego is a signatory of the Australian Packaging Covenant and a member of the Australia, NZ, and Pacific Island Pact on Plastic.

Sensitive skin saviour

JURLIQUE is preparing to launch its Calendula Face Oil next month, which the brand describes as a "sensitive skin saviour".

Designed to nourish, calm and instantly soothe sensitive skin, the new face oil features a clean formula infused with 100% natural origin ingredients.

Stocked by National pharmacies, the product has undergone extensive testing to ensure its efficacy and gentleness on delicate skin types.



Natio's seamless and invisible sun protection



NATIO has expanded its skincare range with two new additions: an Invisible Mist Facial Sunscreen (RRP:\$24.95), and an Invisible Stick Facial Sunscreen (RRP:\$22.95),

both offering SPF 50+ broad spectrum sun protection and two hours' water resistance.

The mist makes application and reapplication a breeze, with the vitamin E enriched formula designed to finely mist onto skin, weightlessly topping up sun protection and leaving a soft, healthy-looking glow.

Meanwhile, the stick boasts a comfortable, invisible formula that glides onto skin, seamlessly topping up facial sun protection without fuss or mess.

The two new Sun Invisible products will hit store shelves at the end of Sep.

Natio's range is stocked by a range of pharmacies, including Chemist Warehouse, Priceline, Wizard Pharmacy, and more.

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Beauty & Wellness
by Pharmacy Daily



Dispensary Corner

SENSITIVITY to various forms of artificial light can play a role in the treatment of insomnia, but a cool new device from Monash University may be ready to help sufferers get some much-needed shut-eye.

Researchers at the Melbourne institution have developed a new wearable device which records the impact artificial light has on disrupting sound sleep.

The device, known as MiEye, is about the size of a 20-cent piece and is connected to a smartphone app to record the impact of any light source, such as fluorescent light, overhead LED, and device light.

Researchers believe the device can come in handy for travellers subjected to jet lag when they cross time zones, and shift workers whose body clocks are in a constant state of flux.

The device sends data on sleep disruption to the app, which calculates the impact on the user, which in turn can help fine tune insomnia treatment.

"By helping to manage circadian rhythms, MiEye will be a powerful clinical tool that can aid in the treatment of type 2 diabetes, mental health issues, cardiovascular disease and hypertension, and generally improve health and longevity," said lead study author, Professor Sean Cain.

Researchers have adapted the device for commercial production through a spin-off company called Circadian Health Innovations, with the device expected to be available for more sleep research in 2025.

BHI sees uplift in care



A NEW report from the Bureau of Health Information (BHI) reveals that patient experiences in NSW hospitals improved between 2022 and 2023, despite increasing pressures on the healthcare system.

BHI Chief Executive Dr Diane Watson stated that the latest Adult Admitted Patient Survey indicated a generally positive outlook on hospital care among patients.

Of the over 20,000 NSW patients surveyed, 92% rated their overall care in 2023 as either "very good" or "good", with 68% of patients rating it as "very good", an increase from 66% in 2022.

Dr Watson credited these hospital improvements to the dedication of various health

professionals across the state.

The survey showed better ratings in more than half of the questions compared to the previous year.

Notably, 66% of patients rated the teamwork of health professionals as "very good", up from 63% in 2022.

Additionally, 69% of patients felt they had sufficient time to discuss their health concerns, and 74% reported that their families received the right amount of information about their condition, both showing improvements.

The report also highlights differences between urban and rural hospitals.

Patients in rural hospitals reported significantly more positive experiences overall, while urban hospitals scored higher only in providing discharge summaries.

The report also focused on Aboriginal patients, with 77% feeling they were always treated with respect, though only 29% received support from an Aboriginal health worker.

Dr Watson highlighted the importance of access to Aboriginal health workers, as 94% of those who received such support felt more comfortable with their care. *JG*

Raise awareness about mpox vaccines

PHARMACISTS are urged to raise awareness about the free mpox vaccine available for eligible at-risk people through their local pharmacies.

The vaccine is also widely available through sexual health clinics, hospitals, general practitioners, Aboriginal health services and councils.

Victoria's Chief Health Officer said there is an ongoing outbreak of mpox in the state, and other

Australian jurisdictions, mostly impacting gay and bisexual men.

This outbreak is caused by the Clade IIb strain of the virus.

There is a rapidly increasing mpox outbreak within central and eastern Africa caused by Clade Ib of the virus, which is not detected in Australia to date.

The World Health Organization has declared the outbreak a public health emergency of international concern.

Conference hype

REGISTRATIONS are closing soon for the 2024 Pharmacy Connect and Pharmacy Assistant National Conference, taking place from 05-07 Sep at Hyatt Regency Sydney.

Hosted by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and Pharmacy Connect, the must-attend events will be an opportunity to hear industry updates, gain business advice and network with peers.

Shaping the conference program in 2024 are key issues surrounding the government's 60-day PBS supply policy.

Sessions will be held on the Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement, which began earlier this year, with a focus on transitional issues faced by community pharmacies.

The event will also feature the Student Summit, returning this year by popular demand and again providing invaluable opportunities for pharmacy students and interns to meet with potential employers and attend informative workshops.

Last year, more than 1,300 pharmacists and assistants attended the two conferences.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Prof Trent Twomey, said he was excited for the major event.

"I'm looking forward to catching up with each and every one of you, and the pharmacists and pharmacy assistants of Australia, to talk not just about the 8CPA but all of the Full Scope of Practice initiatives that are coming online in all the states and territories," he said.

CLICK HERE to register for both major conferences. *ML*



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