

## Today's issue of PD

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

- Dispense Assist
- Nova Pharmaceuticals
- Guild Insurance

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## 8CPA signed for five years

THE eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA) signed today delivers a funding boost of \$3 billion and a total of \$26.5 billion in funding over five years (PD breaking news).

The Government has also signed a Strategic Agreement on Pharmacist Professional Practice Standards with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

The key features include the phasing-in of the \$1 discount, funded by the Commonwealth Government; freezing of PBS co-payments for up to five years; and CPI indexation on dispensing fees.



There will be an additional AHI payment to community pharmacies for dispensing 60-day prescriptions; and more.

The 8CPA is effective from 01 Jul 2024 to 30 Jun 2029. JG

**Pictured (L-R):** Health Dept Secretary Blair Comley, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Guild President Trent Twomey.

## CSL's \$22m contract for pre-pandemic vax

CSL Seqirus has won a US federal \$22 million contract to produce 4.8 million doses of a pre-pandemic vaccine that is matched to H5N1, the currently circulating strain of bird flu virus.

This is the fourth contract awarded by the Biomedical Advanced Research and

Development Authority in response to "sustained highly pathogenic avian influenza activity", the company stated.

Dave Ross, General Manager of CSL Seqirus, commented, "we embrace pandemic preparedness as a critical part of public health protection".



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## RSV surge alert

**DURING** the RSV Awareness Week (02-08 Jun), Australia has already recorded more than 47,000 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) cases in children aged under five years, and over 13,000 incidents in people aged 60 years and above.

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## Top Tasmanian pharmacists honoured

**THREE** recipients of the 2024 Tasmanian Pharmacist of the Year Awards were announced during the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Annual Therapeutic Update VIC/TAS in Hobart over the weekend (**PD** breaking news).

Sponsored by Symbion, this year's winners were Tasmanian Pharmacist of the Year - Kristina Fox (Complete Care Pharmacy Rosny Park); Lifetime Achievement Award - Ian Huett (Deloraine Amcal and Guardian Pharmacies); and Early Career Pharmacist of the Year - Monique Licht (Complete Care Pharmacy Rosny Park).

Katie Hayes, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Tasmanian Senior Vice President, said that this year's winner, community pharmacy owner Fox, is delivering professional pharmacy services in a purpose-built environment.

Hayes said, "Kristina relocated and rebuilt her pharmacy, including five purpose-built clinical consultation rooms, and brought her



pharmacists out of the dispensary to the medicines counter to triage scripts via bespoke software she designed herself".

In presenting the award to ECP winner Licht, Tasmanian PSA President David Peachey said, "Monique has upskilled herself by not only providing tailored care and therapies to patients but also educating pharmacists, prescribers, students and other allied health professionals in this field".

Peachey added that longtime

community pharmacist Huett's win recognises him as a highly respected and dedicated professional, mentor, teacher, advocate and leader as a former Chair of the Tasmanian Pharmacy Board, and serving generations of families living in and around Deloraine, Tas, for over 52 years. *JG*

**Pictured (L-R):** Symbion General Manager Andrew Crawley; PSA National President Dr Fei Sim; Kristina Fox; Ian Huett; Monique Licht; and David Peachey.

### Low-cost solution

**DISPENSE** Assist is highlighting how it can help pharmacy owners deal with staffing and cost challenges with its fully qualified technicians, available 24/7. See more on **page four**.

### New medication

**NOVA** Pharmaceuticals emergency contraception Novella-1 will be available soon for dispensing by pharmacists to appropriately counselled customers. See more on **page five**.

### Cover certainty

**GUILD** Insurance will cover various scope of practice pilots so pharmacists can expand their services with confidence knowing they are protected for their real-life needs. See more on the **back page**.

## Time to rethink your dispensary set-up?

### The latest in pharmacy robotic automation

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### Dispensary Corner

**IN A** quirky twist, snapping pics of your meals might just be the recipe for better eating habits, according to new research from Curtin University.

Published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, this study dives into the world of food selfies.

Could these become another tool for pharmacists offering nutritional advice, weigh-ins, weight loss and protein-loaded shakes and bars, along with Ozempic prescriptions?

Researchers conducted a feeding study where participants had to weigh their meals and then eat them over a day for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

But here's where it gets Instagram-worthy: participants had to recall what they ate using different tech-assisted methods.

One group got to use the AI-based Food Record app, snapping photos of their meals like influencers.

Those who photographed their food had a much juicier accuracy rate in recalling their nutritional intake compared to those relying solely on memory.

As AI technology advances, it could not only better capture what populations are eating, but also offer more accurate dietary advice for individuals.

## Pharmacy Connect offers 8CPA insights

**THE** details of the eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA) will take centre stage at the upcoming Pharmacy Connect conference, where the comprehensive education program has just been unveiled.

The event promises a lineup featuring pre-conference workshops, a 70-stand trade exhibition, and networking opportunities like the welcome reception and cocktail party.

Former Guild national President and convenor Kos Sclavos (**pictured**) shared insights into this year's event whose theme is 'connect today, shape tomorrow', emphasising its relevance for pharmacists, owners, executives, students, interns, and industry representatives alike.

Set to unfold at the Hyatt Regency Sydney from 05-07 Sep, Pharmacy Connect aims to foster dialogue and innovation within the pharmaceutical community.

"Everyone I speak to is very keen to get an update on the details of the 8CPA," said Sclavos, underscoring the conference's approach to addressing pressing industry concerns.

"Pharmacy Connect is a very practical pharmacy conference that will give pharmacy staff the support they need at this difficult business time," he told *Pharmacy Daily*.

With discussions set to delve into facets of the 8CPA, Sclavos stressed



the importance of proactive planning to maximise its benefits.

He particularly highlighted the impending impact of the 60-Day Dispensing (60DD) policy, slated to affect pharmacies nationwide from 01 Sep.

"While no two pharmacies are the same, let me be clear - every pharmacy will suffer a detrimental financial impact from the 60DD policy," Sclavos cautioned.

To mitigate these challenges, he emphasised the need for informed decision-making and strategic adaptation across operations.

Business strategies aimed at offsetting the policy's impact will be a focal point at the conference,

ranging from optional \$1 discount, charging for Dose Administration Aid packs to delivery fee rates.

Sclavos advocated for leveraging available IT tools like Informacy, to monitor and navigate the evolving landscape effectively.

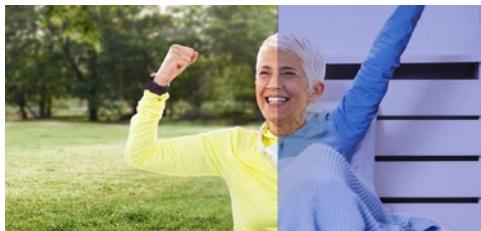
In addition to addressing immediate concerns, Pharmacy Connect will offer delegates valuable insights and resources for long-term sustainability such as "incremental business builders, as no one measure can offset the significant impact of the 60DD", Sclavos commented.

This will include measures such a refocus on generic substitution, biosimilars, implementing the National Immunisation Program, harm minimisation services, using PharmaPrograms, viewing medicinal cannabis as a category, and having a plan for full scope, Sclavos added.

"This year's event caters to everyone," Sclavos said, and includes a pre-conference workshop on full scope of practice and harm minimisation, a women in leadership breakfast, clinical updates and business sessions.

Notable speakers, including financial journalist Effie Zahos and Olympian Peter Bol (*PD* 29 Apr), will deliver perspectives on topics ranging from economic trends to personal growth.

For the full program [CLICK HERE](#), and to register see [HERE](#). JG



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Now that the PGA-driven scope of practice changes are live, we understand that, yet again, the real-life needs of pharmacists have changed, but our support hasn't. All Guild customers who participate in an approved scope of practice pilot can do so with confidence, knowing their insurance policy will still protect them.

## What's a scope of practice pilot?

Scope of practice pilots will continue to evolve as state and federal governments and their agencies continue to work with our profession. In Queensland right now, community pharmacists who have undertaken 12 months of additional training can offer additional services to patients for a number of conditions, including school sores, shingles, mild psoriasis, wound management, swimmer's ear, weight loss management and hypertension, among others. It is these types of programs that Guild has committed to support through the addition of an additional benefit.

## An additional benefit for Guild customers.

To provide cover certainty, the policy wording we apply to all Guild Pharmacy Business policies includes an additional benefit for 'Scope of Practice Pilots'. If you're already insured with Guild, this benefit is automatically applied. If you are not with Guild, you should ask your insurer if they can say the same.

If you'd like to find out more about Guild's exclusive support of pharmacy's scope of practice pilots, visit [guildinsurance.com.au/pilot](https://guildinsurance.com.au/pilot) or if you'd like to be protected by a policy that is tailor made for Australian pharmacists, call a Guild insurance specialist on **1800 810 213**.

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