



# HELPS TAKE THEIR COUGH AWAY

Prospan's clinically proven<sup>1</sup> ivy leaf extract EA 575 provides five different cough-relieving actions to help take your cough away, so the whole family can get back to the breathtaking.

**2x** **Faster**  
Cough Relief  
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1. Prospan is clinically proven to relieve a chesty cough in 7 days vs 14 days untreated. Schaefer A, et al., Pharmazie 2016;71(9):504-509. \*Lang C, et al., Planta Med 2015;81:968-974. Supported by Engelhard Arzneimittel GmbH & Co. KG.

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## Today's issue of PD

**Pharmacy Daily** today features three pages of news, a cover wrap from **SFI Health's Prospan** plus full pages from:

- **Pointrs**
- **Guild Insurance**

## Soothes coughs

**SFI Health's Prospan** for Children provides five different cough-relieving actions thanks to its ivy leaf extract. See more on the **cover page**.

## Savings on travel

**POINTRS** is offering ways to save on travel by using cash, credit card and loyalty points, with over 3,000 hotel stays and flights to explore. See more on **page four**.

## Cover certainty

**GUILD** Insurance will cover various scope-of-practice pilots so pharmacists can expand their services with confidence, knowing their needs are met. Learn more on the **back page**.

# Focus on unapproved models of care

**RECENT** years have witnessed an exponential rise in the use of unregistered medicinal cannabis and compounded medicines such as replica semaglutide.

Authorities such as the Pharmacy, Medical, Nursing, and Midwifery Boards of Australia, along with Ahpra, are now directing their attention toward alarming reports suggesting practitioners are capitalising on this surge in demand.

The boards also noted with concern the TGA data which indicated a staggering increase of medicinal cannabis from approximately 18,000 Australian patients in 2019 to over one million patients by Jan 2024.

In response to these issues, Ahpra and the boards are reinforcing the longstanding obligations of practitioners when prescribing and dispensing medications, emphasising their applicability amidst evolving business models.

Additionally, a specialised unit will be established to address practitioners potentially breaching their ethical codes and obligations.

Of particular concern are practice models centred around specialised clinics catering to single disorders



and prescribing single medicines based solely on patient demand.

Some businesses heavily rely on telemedicine consultations or algorithm-based prescribing, while others directly supply unapproved medicines to patients.

Ahpra CEO, Martin Fletcher (**pictured**), has warned against these emerging practices, asserting that they jeopardise the traditional therapeutic rapport between patients and practitioners.

He emphasised the necessity for balanced prescribing, ensuring both safety and accessibility.

"Good prescribing must balance safety and access," said Fletcher.

"While the delivery of telehealth services is supported by Ahpra

and the National Boards, we do not support practitioners or health services taking advantage of patients or ignoring their obligations to provide appropriate care and follow up when needed."

Moreover, Fletcher highlighted the proliferation of businesses focusing on compounded glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists, prompting a TGA ban on compounding these medications from Oct 2024 (**PD 22 May**).

These business models, Fletcher explained, "often operate in ways that obscure the quantity and nature of medicines being distributed, potentially compromising patient care and violating Australia's professional codes of conduct".

Pharmacists can learn more about professional responsibilities for dispensing medicines, **HERE**. *JG*

## Happy holidays

**PHARMACY Daily** will take a brief publishing break over the King's Birthday long weekend, and wishes all our readers a relaxed break.

We will return on 11 Jun with the latest pharmacy news.

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## Genomics initiative

THE nation's largest cancer genomics initiative ProSPeCT (Precision Oncology Screening Platform Enabling Clinical Trials) has hit a major milestone, with over 5,000 Australians diagnosed with hard-to-treat cancers receiving free comprehensive genomic profiling of their disease.

Data shows 75% of these patients have actionable genetic biomarkers, offering potential for personalised medical treatments.

Over 750 clinicians nationwide are actively referring patients, regardless of location or age.

Referrals come from all parts of Australia, with 38% from rural areas.

Patients aged 16 to 91 are benefiting from profiling, covering various cancer types.

The process, from consent to treatment recommendations, takes five to eight weeks.

## CW and G4L on men's mental health

AUSTRALIA faces a sobering reality as nine lives succumb to suicide daily, with seven being men, according to ABS statistics.

Chemist Warehouse (CW) has supported men's mental health non-profit Gotcha4Life Foundation (G4L) since 2017 with an annual Men's Health Month promotion donating sales from selected brands to G4L.

The pharmacy brand also sells 'Mateship' wristbands at checkout counters, with proceeds going to G4L. L'Oreal Paris Men Expert and Gillette are also brand supporters.

Yesterday, CW hosted an event in Sydney with G4L to discuss men's mental health, featuring G4L founder Gus Worland (pictured left).

Alongside G4L ambassador Cam Merchant and mental health advocate Tarang Chawla (pictured right), the event aimed to amplify awareness about mental fitness and foster open dialogue.

Merchant courageously bared his soul, reflecting on a time



when even the simplest tasks felt insurmountable due to mental health struggles.

"Can you raise your hands if you put your pants on this morning?" Merchant asked.

"There was a stage unfortunately in my life where mentally and emotionally I couldn't put my pants on, I had reached rock bottom."

Chawla, profoundly affected by the loss of his sister to domestic violence, underscored the importance of self-care amid his own advocacy work.

Worland stressed the imperative for men to initiate conversations about mental health and seek support, remarking, "men do want to have that difficult conversation about a mental health challenge

they are facing but don't know how to start it".

"How many actually have the guts to be vulnerable to say 'I need help'?" Worland enquired.

In a society where stereotypes stifle vulnerability, all three speakers urged courage in speaking out and destigmatising mental health issues.

Worland highlighted G4L's resources for emotional resilience called mental health fitness gym sessions, while Merchant emphasised the power of listening without judgment.

"One of the ways to open such conversations is to do it yourself by offering your own vulnerability and speaking about an issue you may be facing," Worland said. JG

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### Dispensary Corner

**IN** A heartwarming twist, Monash University researchers have used artificial intelligence (AI) to discover social factors that might just save your heart. Published in the *BMJ Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*, the study reveals that having friends and family can significantly reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD). The study, which followed 9,936 Aussies over 70 for six years, found that being married or having social support lowers CVD risk. But the fun doesn't stop there! For men, playing chess or cards and having a close-knit group of three to eight relatives can lower the risk by 18%, 24%, and 30%, respectively. Women, on the other hand, benefit from living with others and having at least three besties to share their secrets with, reducing their risk by 26% and 29%. First author and PhD candidate Achamyelah Birhanu Teshale noted, "women's close friendships are like a secret weapon against CVD, while men seem to thrive on competitive games and family chats". Senior author Dr Rosanne Freak-Poli highlighted the broader implications, saying, "our study's findings show that staying socially connected is not just good for your mental health, but it's great for your heart too". "So, whether it's joining a walking group or finding a new hobby, staying connected can keep you healthy".

## Paragon and CH2 merge



**PARAGON** Care Limited has successfully finalised its merger with CH2 Holdings Pty Limited, marking a significant transformation for the company into a prominent healthcare wholesaler, distributor, and manufacturer across the Asia Pacific region. The merger, completed on 03 Jun, saw David Collins assume the role of CEO, while Peter Lacaze was appointed Chairman. Under the merger terms, Paragon acquired all issued share capital of CH2, dispersing over 943 million ordinary shares to shareholders,

including the Lacaze and Collins Millar Family Trusts. The restructuring extended to the board of directors, with Shane Tanner, Geoffrey Sam, and Brent Stewart resigning, and David Collins, Carmen Riley, and Peter Lacaze joining. John Walstab stepped down as Managing Director, succeeded by David Collins, who brings over two decades of healthcare industry expertise from his tenure as CH2's Managing Director. Michael Peters will retain his position as Chief Financial Officer of the merged entity, to ensure continuity in financial management amid the strategic evolution. *JG*

### Bulk billing rises

**NEW** Health Dept data has revealed that the GP bulk billing rates have improved. The rate in May was 79%, representing a rise of 3.4%, since government incentives came into effect last year (*PD* 01 Nov 2023). States that have historically had lower bulk billing rates have seen the largest increases, with an 8.1% increase in Tasmania, and a 5.5% increase in the ACT, while NSW had the lowest rise at 2.7%.

### Travel medicines

**NEW** research released by pharmacy brand Fess showed that blocked and sneezy noses could derail Australians' upcoming travel plans. Eighty per cent of Aussies say getting sick would ruin their holiday, and being seated next to a sneezy passenger without a mask (67%) would be worse than sitting next to noisy children (48%). Speaking to *Pharmacy Daily*, Dr Brad McKay, who specialises in preventative health, emphasised the importance of travel medicines. He advised that pharmacists and GPs work as a team to suggest travel medicines when customers come in for their vaccinations, such as gastro medicines, dry eye drops and staying rehydrated. "Pharmacists are in a prime position as they can show them the medicines, and give them gentle reminders to see what they may need in the future when travelling," he said. He also suggested that a saline nasal spray could help unblock congested and blocked noses on flights.



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**Pointr #998**

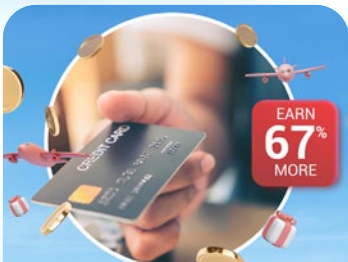
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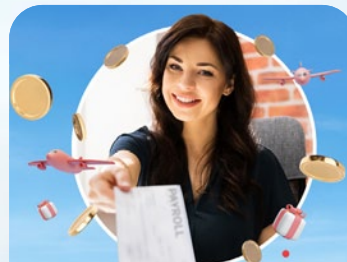
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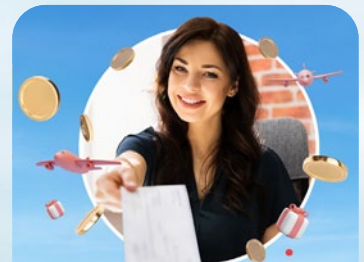
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For over 60 years, Guild Insurance has supported Australia's pharmacy profession through everything you do. Together with the PGA and PDL, we've worked hard to ensure our policies protect and reflect pharmacists' real-life needs.

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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