



Hartley's Gripe Water helps reduce colic and wind in infants.

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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus the **May MIMS update**, and full pages from:

- Chemsave
- Priceline Pharmacy

Limited-time offer

CHEMSAVE is highlighting its limited-time special offer, which provides value for a low monthly membership fee.

Save by receiving discounts on OTC and Rx products and free point-of-sale support, and more - head to **page three**.

Reasons to switch

PRICELINE Pharmacy has given 10 considered reasons to help take your business to the next level with insights from pharmacist colleagues.

Join to give your pharmacy a clear point of difference.

See more on **page four**.

Dementia body's new face

DEMENTIA Australia has appointed comedian Geraldine Hickey (**pictured**) as its newest Ambassador, coinciding with the Melbourne Memory Walk & Jog event taking place this Sun.

Hickey, inspired by her father's dementia diagnosis in 2017, expressed gratitude for Dementia Australia's support during her family's journey.

She aims to raise awareness and understanding of dementia, stating, "having a better understanding of dementia is an integral part of dealing with it".

Since 2021, Hickey has actively supported the body's fundraising efforts and participated in initiatives like *The Dementia Guide* audiobook and the Educational Dementia Immersive Experience virtual reality tool experience, gaining insight into the challenges faced by those with the disease.

Dementia Australia Chief Operating Officer, Anthony Boffa, welcomed Hickey's appointment, praising her dedication to



improving the lives of those affected by dementia.

MEANWHILE, Dementia Australia, in collaboration with Parliamentary Friends of Dementia co-convenors Erin Thompson and Penny Pratt, announced progress towards establishing dementia-friendly communities in South Australia.

The recently finalised action plan aims to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and provide support for the growing number of individuals living with the illness along with families and carers.

Key initiatives include encouraging parliamentarians to become Dementia Friends and utilising Dementia-Friendly Communities' resources in local engagements. *JG*

Hold hand health

OVER 60,000 Australians are affected annually by infections exacerbated by poor hand hygiene, says the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

The Commission's Chief Medical Officer, Conjoint Associate Professor Carolyn Hullick, is raising awareness of effective hand hygiene as a clear barrier to infection ahead of World Hand Hygiene Day this Sun 05 May.

Hullick said hand hygiene was a cornerstone of infection prevention and control along with being a fundamental strategy for improving patient and healthcare worker safety.

A video series featuring healthcare experts promoting the key elements of hand hygiene can now be viewed by **CLICKING HERE**.

Another resource, titled '5 Moments of Hand Hygiene', is been designed to push good hand hygiene - **CLICK HERE**.

RPMA renewal applications now open

THE submission period for the Regional Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance (RPMA) renewal applications has begun, and will remain open until 14 Jun.

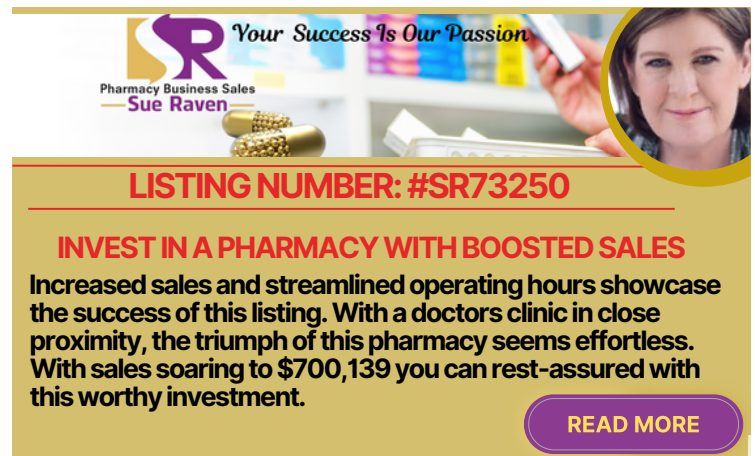
As per the RPMA program rules, applications submitted outside of this timeframe will not be considered.

Pharmacists looking to renew their allowance must log into the Pharmacy Programs Administrator portal and access

the RPMA program page specific to their pharmacy.

After submission, the application status will be marked as pending until the RPMA Payment Matrix for the fiscal year 2024/25 is released, at which point the allowance amount will be determined.

For any inquiries regarding the application process, email support@ppaonline.com.au or call 1800 951 285.



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Independent Pharmacies of Australia Group

Supporting Independence

previously The Platform Alliance Group

support@ipagroup.com

Dispensary Corner

IF YOU thought being popular in high school was all about trendy clothes and endless invites, think again.

It turns out, the coolest kids on campus are also the sleepest.

According to a new study from *Frontiers in Sleep*, high school royalty are trading in their beauty sleep for popularity.

Researchers in Sweden and Australia have cracked the case on why the popular kids are yawning through math classes.

The study found that teen trendsetters sleep up to 27 min less than their not-so-popular classmates, with cool girls more likely to count sheep, battling more insomnia symptoms than their male counterparts.

Dr Serena Bauducco, lead researcher and apparent sleep detective, pointed out that the snooze shortage isn't due to late-night texting or scrolling through social media.

"Girls care more, and may carry concerns to bed and are unable to shut down."

Apparently, popularity doesn't come with a snooze button.

Many stores still not stocking Naloxone

NEW research from the Monash Addiction Research Centre has highlighted a critical shortfall in the availability of Naloxone, a life-saving medication that reverses opioid overdoses, across community pharmacies in Australia's most populous states.

Despite the Take Home Naloxone program, which has allowed Naloxone to be supplied for free without a script since 2022, nearly 40% of community pharmacies surveyed do not stock the drug.

Community pharmacies around the nation that offer opioid agonist therapies like methadone and buprenorphine are more likely to have Naloxone available.

This is the first study to evaluate Naloxone availability since the inception of the national Take Home Naloxone program, aimed at curbing the opioid crisis which has seen the number of unintentional opioid-related deaths in Australia nearly triple since 2006.

Prof Suzanne Nielsen, Deputy Director at the Monash Addiction Research Centre, stressed the importance of increasing Naloxone medication accessibility.

"With the recent increases in detections of a highly potent group



of opioids, the nitazenes, in the drug market, making Naloxone accessible is more important than ever," said Prof Nielsen.

She highlighted the community pharmacy's vital role in public health, as they are "highly accessible to the public and can provide Naloxone at no cost to those at risk".

Dr Louisa Picco, a Research Fellow at the Centre, added that while it's positive that pharmacies involved in treating opioid dependence have higher Naloxone availability, there is a pressing need for all community pharmacies to embrace the national program.

She emphasised that improving access to Naloxone across all community pharmacies could

significantly reduce opioid overdose fatalities.

The study, which surveyed 530 community pharmacies across Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia, found that only 60.6% are currently stocking Naloxone.

This still represents a significant improvement from a 2016 study, which found only 23% of community pharmacies stocked the medication.

The study continues to call for increased community awareness about the availability of Naloxone and safer use of opioids.

The research was presented at the 2024 Emerging Researcher Symposium of the Monash Addiction Research Centre. *JG*

Wesfarmers division's executive changes

WESFARMERS Chemicals, Energy, and Fertilisers division (WesCEF) announced yesterday that its Managing Director, Ian Hansen, will retire in Nov.

Hansen, who has played a pivotal role in the growth and success of the company, will continue to serve in an advisory role, particularly in the Group's burgeoning lithium business, remaining as Chairman of Covalent Lithium.

Aaron Hood, currently the Chief Operating Officer at WesCEF, will be Hansen's successor.

Hood, who has held various senior executive positions including Chief Financial Officer and Executive General Manager of Business Development, was promoted to Deputy Managing Director effective yesterday.

He will retain his COO duties until he officially takes over as Managing Director in Nov.

BlinkLab's new AI research partnership

BLINKLAB Ltd, a smartphone-based AI diagnostic tools for autism company, has announced a new partnership with the US Turning Pointe Autism Foundation.

The aim is to initiate a clinical study focused on enhancing autism diagnostics in children.

This strategic move will utilise BlinkLab's technology to conduct a study involving 200 children - 100 previously diagnosed with autism and 100 without.

CEO Henk-Jan Boele said, "our partnership with Turning Pointe is more than just collaboration".

"It is a major step toward fulfilling our mission to make well-established neurobehavioural testing clinically accessible and efficient."

Chair Brian Leedman added that he expects more such announcements ahead of the start of its FDA registration study later this year.

Do The Math(s)!

Chemsave

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- \$ 795 Dispense Assist subscription
- \$ 10 Pointers subscription
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SUBTOTAL = Save \$ 1,695 per month
(\$ 20,340 per year)

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Top 10 reasons to make the switch

- 1 Take your sales to the next level
- 2 Benefit from a strong national promotional program
- 3 Simplify tasks and ordering with an automatic inventory replenishment model*
- 4 Boost your competitive advantage with our nationally recognised brand
- 5 Drive visitation through Australia's biggest health and beauty loyalty program
- 6 Give your pharmacy a clear point of difference with exclusives and first to market product launches
- 7 Get access to deeper supplier scan promotional funding
- 8 Opportunity to improve net profit and diversify your sales
- 9 Increase armoury against industry competition
- 10 Maintain professional and clinical pharmacy offers alongside an exciting retail offering

Ready to take your business to the next level?

Contact JoinPricelinePharmacy@api.net.au

Find out more

*Excludes dispensary

“Joining a national brand like Priceline Pharmacy, the marketing campaigns are very visible, we find a lot of our customers know what is going on in our stores. Priceline filled the gap in our community and provides a whole comprehensive offer. When opening our second store, our pre-existing experience with Priceline and knowing how supportive they would be was a big factor.

Cobie McQueen

Priceline Pharmacy Madden St and Horsham, Vic

“I joined Priceline Pharmacy because I wanted to take my business to the next level. I wanted to make my pharmacy a destination, so it needed to stand out from the competitor in my local area. Our front of shop sales doubled within the span of 2 years after converting to Priceline Pharmacy. We achieved a 50/50 split across front of shop and script sales within 3 years.

Tri Vo

Franchise Partner Priceline Pharmacy Kwinana, WA



New Products

- **Nelarabine (Nelarabine-Reach)** is a pro-drug of the deoxyguanosine analogue ara-G. Nelarabine is rapidly demethylated by adenosine deaminase (ADA) to ara-G and then phosphorylated intracellularly by deoxyguanosine kinase and deoxycytidine kinase to its 5'-monophosphate metabolite. The monophosphate metabolite is subsequently converted to the active 5'-triphosphate form, ara-GTP. Accumulation of ara-GTP in leukaemic blasts allows for preferential incorporation of ara-GTP into deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) leading to inhibition of DNA synthesis. This results in cell death. Induction and liberation of soluble Fas ligand from T-cells also contributes to the cytotoxic effects of nelarabine. *In vitro*, T-cells are more sensitive than B-cells to the cytotoxic effects of nelarabine. *Nelarabine is indicated for the treatment of patients with relapsing/ refractory T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and T-cell lymphoblastic lymphoma whose disease has not responded to or has relapsed following treatment.* Nelarabine-Reach solution for infusion contains nelarabine 250 mg/50 mL and is available in packs of 6 vials. It has been available since 13 September 2023 under Section 19A through early access to a medicine under evaluation for inclusion on the ARTG, and it has now been listed on the ARTG.

New Presentation

- **Trametinib (as dimethyl sulfoxide) (Mekinist)** is now available as a powder for oral solution containing trametinib 0.05 mg/mL after reconstitution. It is available in packs of 1 bottle.

New Indications

- **Irinotecan (as sucrosfate) (Onivyde)** is now indicated in combination with oxaliplatin, 5-FU, and leucovorin for the first-line treatment of metastatic pancreatic adenocarcinoma.
- **Trametinib (as dimethyl sulfoxide) (Mekinist)** is now indicated in combination with dabrafenib for the treatment of paediatric patients 1 year of age and older with BRAF V600E mutation and low-grade glioma who require systemic therapy or high-grade glioma who have progressed following prior treatment and have no satisfactory alternative treatment options.

New Contraindications

- **Atazanavir (Reyataz)** is now contraindicated in combination with carbamazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin, encorafenib, and ivosidenib.

This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.