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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of industry news, plus a full page from Glucojel.

## Glucojel Glucofest

GLUCOJEL is running a competition to give your customers the chance to win a year's supply of their favourite Glucojel products, so make sure your shelves are well-stocked. See more on [page five](#).

## Send us your polly pics

WITH election campaigning in full swing, we'd love to hear about the local candidates who have visited your pharmacy. Send photos and an account of what took place to [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

# \$1.5 billion in uncertified PBS claims

THE Department of Health and Aged Care is reminding pharmacists of their legal obligation to certify their claims for the supply of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines.

It comes as the department and Services Australia work with pharmacists and stakeholders to continue to bring down the number of outstanding uncertified PBS claims, with an estimated \$1.51 billion worth outstanding in Dec last year.

"Payments issued to PBS suppliers in advance of finalising a claim supports timely access of medicines to Australians, and quicker remuneration of approved suppliers for supplies of PBS medicines," said a departmental spokesperson.

"To finalise a claim, a PBS supplier must complete a statement to certify that the supply of PBS medicines have been made in accordance with legal requirements within 30 days of the end of the relevant claim period."

The department assured pharmacists that despite the large benefit amount in outstanding uncertified claims, "the system is working", and more than 98% of claims were certified by pharmacies and hospitals within the required 30 days for the last financial year.

Departmental contact with a number of approved suppliers resulted in a significant reduction in the number of uncertified claims, with many unaware of the timeframe in which certification is required.

The department is now working with more approved suppliers to further reduce uncertified claims.

"The overwhelming majority of uncertified claims are from pharmacists and hospitals, 70% of



which have only a single uncertified claim period," the spokesperson said.

"We appreciate the efforts of approved suppliers in meeting their legal obligation, and the speed in which they have actioned outstanding uncertified claims to date," they added.

More information on how to certify and close their PBS claims can be found on the Services Australia website [HERE](#). KB

# Looking to purchase your first pharmacy? Time for a review of your current finances? Buying or selling equity?

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## Pharmacy Connect earlybird now open

**PHARMACY** Connect Convenor Kos Sclavos has announced that earlybird registration for Pharmacy Connect 2025 is now open.

“Pharmacy Connect is a must-attend event for pharmacy professionals, and we’re pleased to offer earlybird savings for those who register now,” Sclavos said.

“By securing a ticket early, attendees can save \$100 off their registration.”

The conference will take place at the Hyatt Regency Sydney from 03-05 Sep, and features a two-and-a-half-day education program, pre-conference workshops, a 70-stand trade exhibition, and networking events, including the welcome reception and cocktail party.

“Attendees will have the opportunity to learn practical strategies to enhance their pharmacy’s profitability, operational efficiency and patient care,” said Sclavos.

“Pharmacy Connect delivers content that is not only relevant but immediately applicable to pharmacy businesses.”

See registration info [HERE](#).

## Aussie teen health crisis

**ALMOST** one in two Australian teens are living with a chronic disease or developmental condition, such as ADHD or autism, according to Australian research published today.

The study involved a self-reported survey of over 5,000 adolescents looking at noncommunicable diseases and developmental conditions, sex, socio-economic status, lifestyle behaviours and mental health.

It is the first study of its kind in Australia to examine unhealthy behaviours and mental health, while examining their overlap with common and emerging health conditions in teens.

The research team found that 45.6% of adolescents reported a noncommunicable disease or developmental condition.

Female teenagers who consumed more sugar-sweetened beverages, ultra-processed foods or alcohol; participated in more screen time; or had depression, anxiety or psychological distress were more likely to have at least one disease or condition.

Teenage males had a disproportionately higher risk of having a disease when they had a mental health condition, compared with females who had the same mental health conditions.



The most common chronic diseases in teenagers were hay fever (23%) and asthma (15%), while the most common developmental condition was ADHD, affecting 9% of participants.

Lead author Dr Bridie Osman from the University of Sydney said that the issue of chronic disease and developmental conditions in teenagers is “often overlooked as a serious public health concern”.

Dr Osman pointed out that the conditions can have “a profound impact” on a teenager’s development, hindering their ability to attend school and participate in sports, as well as having social implications.

“Some of these chronic health conditions can also cause ongoing damage to the immune system and contribute to more severe diseases in later life,” she added.

Dr Osman pointed out that while the study could not demonstrate that diseases and conditions are caused by unhealthy lifestyles, there is a clear link that requires further investigation.

“This finding is a wake-up call that we need to do more to prioritise the health of young people,” she said.

Read the full paper [HERE](#). *KB*

## Meet trailblazers at PCS 2025

**PHARMACISTS** looking to find their career path may find inspiration at the Pharmacy Careers Summit 2025 on 04 Jul, where they will see and hear from pharmacists who have broken new ground.

In the session ‘Meet the Trailblazers - Showcasing Pharmacists Forging New Paths’, Peter Guthrey and Ayomide Ogundipe from the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) will speak with these innovators and explore their journeys, highlighting how they have carved out interesting roles in pharmacy - with the PSA’s support.

Ogundipe noted this is a session “no student or early career pharmacists can afford to miss”.

“I’ve been inspired by the trailblazers of the profession, and can’t wait to share their stories with you at Pharmacy Careers Conference in July to help you find your path in the profession,” said Ogundipe.

Emily Thorpe, PSA’s Acting Manager of Training and Assessment, will also feature at PCS25, joining a panel discussion on how to maximise success during the intern year.

This session will provide insights into making the most of training, mentorship and career opportunities.

Read more about PCS25 [HERE](#).

## Sleeping in the pharmacy to stay afloat

**THE** final episode of the ‘Women in Pharmacy’ podcast series features Caroline Diamantis - National VP of the PSA, board member of the Pharmacy Council NSW, and a long-time pharmacy owner.

Diamantis shares the story of her journey with *Your Pharmacy Career Podcast* host Krysti-Lee Patterson, from growing up in her father’s pharmacy to overcoming significant challenges as a young female business owner in a male-dominated industry.

Career-defining moments included buying her first pharmacy at just 23, being denied a bank loan because she

did not have a husband, and sleeping in the pharmacy to keep her business afloat.

She also discusses her advocacy for women in the industry and the profession’s expanded scope of practice, as well as lessons in mentorship, resilience and leadership.

“Caroline’s story is a testament to the hard work, sacrifice, and determination it took to pave the way for the women in pharmacy today,” said Patterson.

“Her journey is a powerful reminder of the importance of continuing to push for equity and opportunity in pharmacy.”

Listen to the podcast [HERE](#).

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## AdPha's MM2025 call for abstracts

AUSTRALIA'S largest and most influential scientific pharmacy conference, Medicines Management 2025, has opened its call for abstracts.

Pharmacists, technicians and collaborators are invited to showcase groundbreaking research and innovative ideas from in and around Australian hospitals, and across care settings, with submissions invited in three categories: original research, pharmacy practice and case reports.

"Whether you're a student, an early-career practitioner, or a seasoned leader, I encourage all pharmacy professionals to be part of Australia's largest scientific pharmacy program," said Dr Kate O'Hara, AdPha Vice President.

Abstract submissions close 02 Jul, with more information available [HERE](#).

## Pill depression risk post-birth

WOMEN who start taking a hormonal contraceptive pill soon after childbirth are at a higher risk of developing depression in the first year of their child's life, according to a large Danish study.

Hormonal contraceptive use is known to be associated with depression, but whether this is also true in the postpartum period - when women have a heightened depression risk and are routinely offered hormonal contraceptives - was unknown.

The team followed the contraceptive choices of over 600,000 women in Denmark after having their first child, with 40% of the women beginning to take the pill within a year of their child's birth.

The researchers found women taking the pill were at nearly 1.5 times the risk of depression compared to women not taking the pill.

The onset of depression was instantaneous, and the earlier the women initiated birth control, the



higher their risk was.

The effect was found across all age groups, and was more pronounced for women with no prior mental health disorder.

However, it was not found in women taking progestogen-only pills.

While only 1.5% of all the participants developed depression during the study, the researchers said their findings raise questions about the role birth control could play in post-partum depression rates.

The increased risk is "important information to convey at postpartum contraceptive counselling", the authors noted.

Read the study [HERE](#). KB

## Jardiance PBS listing expanded

THE PBS listing of Jardiance (empagliflozin 10mg and 25mg) has been expanded to allow use right from the start with metformin in patients with type 2 diabetes (T2D) who are at high cardiovascular (CV) risk, have existing CV disease, or identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander - regardless of their HbA1c level.

More than 115,000 additional Australians are now eligible for treatment with the drug.

"Jardiance was the first SGLT-2 inhibitor shown to provide significant cardioprotective benefits and remains the only medicine in this class indicated to reduce the risk of cardiovascular death in patients with T2D and established CV disease," said Dr Ted Wu, Director of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Diabetes Centre.

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Dive into our latest podcast episode featuring **Caroline Diamantis**, the National Vice President of PSA, a pharmacy owner, and an advocate for the profession.

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## Dispensary Corner

**WE'VE** all experienced the frustration of walking into a room and forgetting why we went there or what we were going to do.

Well, scientists have shed some light on why this happens - and no, it has nothing to do with dementia, thankfully.

Dubbed the 'doorway effect', the phenomenon is the result of a normal brain response to new surroundings, according to cognitive neuroscientist and writer, Christian Jarrett.

The brain 'resets' slightly when moving between rooms, Jarrett told *BBC Science Focus*, causing thoughts had in the previous room to slip away.

Jarrett pointed to the findings of a University of Queensland study that explored the mental phenomenon.

"They found that passing through doorways that joined identical rooms mostly didn't impact memory - perhaps because there wasn't enough of a changed context to create a significant event boundary," he explained.

Instead, the effect is more likely to occur when there is a notable change in context - for example, heading from the living room to the backyard.

It is also more likely to happen when someone is distracted and has other things on their mind.

For those who want to avoid this annoying but harmless 'brain fart', Jarrett suggested that people should try to stay focused on their purpose when they pass through a doorway on an errand.

# PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

## NEW Sudocrem 100g tube

Sudocrem is a zinc-based emollient cream that soothes and protects skin against irritation caused by nappy rash and incontinence.

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