

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features five pages of news, including a special feature from **ID Station**, and a full page from **Maxofen**.

Passport to profit

ID STATION biometric passport camera system provides ICAO-compliant passport photos that deliver high margin returns for pharmacies.

It is quick to set up and easy to use, with no expertise required - learn more on **p4**.

Maximise your day

NEW Maxofen from Nova Pharmaceuticals combines paracetamol and ibuprofen for double-action relief from acute pain and fever.

Available in packs of 12 and 30 tablets.

See details on **page six**.

SA finally gets allied health agreement

ADVANCED Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has welcomed South Australia's landmark four-year enterprise agreement for allied health professionals as a "long-overdue step in recognising the critical role pharmacists play in providing safe and quality pharmacy care".

The agreement is the first of its kind for SA, which until now was the only state where allied health professionals did not have a dedicated agreement.

Benefitting more than 8,000 workers, including hospital pharmacists, the agreement delivers a 13.5% wage increase over the four years, improved parental leave and new professional development allowances.

AdPha President Tom Simpson said the agreement was a strong foundation and welcomed the inclusion of professional development and specialisation.

"This is a long-overdue movement for pharmacists in South Australia

- professionals who are central to safer, smarter, and more effective healthcare," Simpson said.

"It's promising to see recognition of career development and specialisation embedded in the agreement but disappointing it does not flow into all allied health areas including pharmacy roles."

Simpson urged South Australia's pharmacy workforce to take full advantage of Australia and New Zealand College of Advanced Pharmacy (ANZCAP) national recognition pathways to enhance their career progression.

He also warned that the agreement omits minimum pharmacist-to-patient ratios, a key element of safe and sustainable care.

"While this new agreement reflects the expertise and value pharmacists bring to the health system, more must be done to ensure safe staffing levels, workforce sustainability, and retention," he said.

"If we're serious about



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embedding innovations like Partnered Pharmacist Medication Prescribing and delivering high-quality care, then pharmacist-to-patient ratios drawn from the Advanced Pharmacy Australian Clinical Pharmacy Standards, must be built into the agreement - as they are in Victoria."

The agreement has been endorsed by employees and is now going to South Australian Employment Tribunal for approval.

"This agreement recognises the professionals we have - but we need to plan for the workforce we need to deliver for South Australians into the future," Simpson concluded. **KB**

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Daniel Bowen
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0425 152 815
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Tim Gersteling
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TGA sunscreen consultation

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has conducted a review of sunscreen ingredients and is recommending additional safeguards for two ingredients - homosalate and oxybenzone.

It is also recommending a maximum allowable limit for benzophenone, a degradation by-product of octocrylene.

The review was prompted by regulatory developments overseas, adoption of the Australian sunscreen exposure model and the TGA's scientific literature review of sunscreen ingredients.

The TGA pointed out that all sunscreens available in Australia are safe, and it is not recommending a change in their use.

A comprehensive public and stakeholder consultation has commenced - see details [HERE](#).

Ahpra medicinal cannabis crackdown

"PATIENT demand is not an indication to prescribe medicinal cannabis," said the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) in new guidelines for medicinal cannabis prescribing issued today.

The guidelines were released in response to "evidence of poor practice in prescribing medicinal cannabis that is leading to significant patient harm".

Medicinal cannabis can be prescribed by medical and nurse practitioners, but Ahpra has noted that their respective professional boards are concerned that "profits are being prioritised over patient safety in some medicinal cannabis prescribing practices".

The agency pointed to emerging business models that use aggressive and sometimes misleading advertising targeting vulnerable people.

"Some of these practices only offer the prescription and supply of a single product or class of drug

and use online questionnaires that coach patients to say 'the right thing' to justify prescribing," Ahpra noted.

"While these models may work well for access, there is an inherent conflict of interest for medical and nurse practitioners working in an organisation that prescribes and dispenses a single medication."

The agency highlighted specific instances of poor practice (**PD** 23 May), including practitioners who have each issued more than 10,000 prescriptions for medicinal cannabis products in six months; consultations of only a few seconds that make proper patient assessment impossible; and prescribing without a legitimate indication - or simply because "the patient requested it".

Issues surrounding prescribing to under-18s, not taking comorbidities into account, prescribing excessive quantities, and prescribing for self and friends were also raised.

The new guidelines require



medical and nurse practitioners to have the necessary knowledge, skill and training to provide safe clinical care, and outline what "good patient care" entails.

Ahpra reminded practitioners that it should only be prescribed when there is an evidence-supported clinical indication and when other treatments have not worked.

By the same token, it pointed out there is little evidence to support the use of medicinal cannabis generally, with a few limited exceptions, and the TGA has approved only two products.

The new guidelines are [HERE](#). **KB**

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230,000 Aussie cancer deaths prevented

NEW research reveals decades of cancer control efforts are paying off, with more than 230,000 lives saved in Australia as a result of prevention measures, early diagnosis and improved treatment.

The researchers, led by Cancer Council Victoria, said these figures prove the importance of sustained cancer control investment in both primary and secondary prevention, as the Australian health care sector prepares for cancer incidence to increase by about 50 per cent between 2020 and 2044.

The team used data from the World Health Organization's Global Cancer Observatory (GLOBOCAN), analysed age-standardised cancer mortality rates from 1950 to 2018, and found more than 230,000 deaths have been avoided to date.

Almost two-thirds (65%) of the avoided deaths occurred in the final 10 years of the study period (between 2009 to 2018), showing progress in the fight against cancer has accelerated and continued.

Deputy Head of Cancer Epidemiology at Cancer Council Victoria and lead researcher Associate Professor Brigid Lynch said the study was about better understanding the real-world impacts of decades of Australian cancer-control methods.

"What we're seeing is a snowball effect - we're now seeing the result of investments made in cancer control over the many decades," Associate Professor Lynch said.

There was a substantial decrease in the mortality from lung cancer, rates of which have been dropping since the 1980s, reflecting the success of anti-smoking campaigns.

"Quit campaigns in the 1980s impacted smoking prevalence and led to a drop in lung cancer deaths," Assoc Prof Lynch said.

"We've also seen the mortality rate drop markedly for breast, cervical and stomach cancer.

"While we know more women are diagnosed with breast cancer today because of increased screening,

thanks to early detection and improved treatment options, that mortality rate is falling."

However, not all cancers are following this trend, and the mortality rates for liver and brain cancer were continuing to rise - trends seen globally.

More than half of liver cancer case are related to hepatitis B and C viruses, with a societal increase in alcohol use, obesity and metabolic disease also contributing to the issue.

The researchers called for continued investment in prevention, early detection, and new treatments for cancer.

"We are anticipating a significant increase of cancer incidence over the coming years due to our ageing and growing population," Assoc Prof Lynch said.

"Prevention is the only way we can reduce the health, social and economic burden of cancer and protect our health care system."

Read the study [HERE](#). KB

Ahpra parental leave fee relief

THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) has announced that a rebate of 30% on renewal fees is now available for practitioners who have taken parental leave or certain other forms of leave.

Practitioners renewing their registration after taking leave for at least six continuous months on the grounds of 'a protected attribute' - parental leave, disability or status as a carer - can claim the rebate at their next renewal after the six-month period of leave ends.

For eligible practitioners, the rebate will automatically be applied on the payment page when renewing.

The initiative follows a review of Ahpra's fee-setting policy, and is an interim measure with further work on pro rata fees to come - see details [HERE](#).

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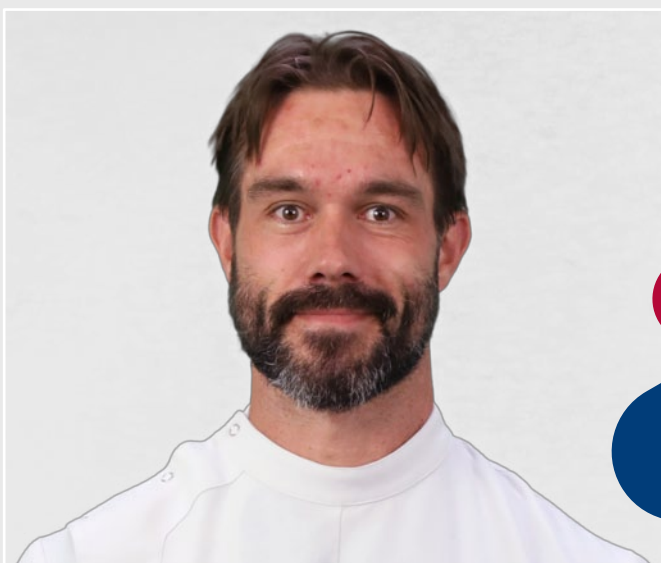


Dive into our latest podcast episode featuring **Nick Pincombe**, a community pharmacist and passionate advocate for veteran and first responder health - "From Combat to Community Care; I Share My Inspiring Journey".

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ID Station is a complete biometric photo ID system that securely automates the passport photo process.

With over 165 country templates, the system is compatible with a broad spectrum of international

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Dispensary Corner

DOCTORS and pharmacists have probably seen or heard of every condition known to mankind, unless they've never heard of 'swamp crotch'.

According to *Vice*, it's an overly moist crotch area and it's causing havoc for some people, particularly when they fly.

One woman detailed on social media a recent experience flying in the US, with TSA airport security scanners flagging her excessively sweaty crotch as a concern, despite having no piercings, medical devices and nothing in her pockets.

Her post generated numerous replies from people who had experienced the same issue.

It turns out TSA scanners and their millimetre wave technology detect more than just metal - they respond to anything that disrupts the signal, including moisture, despite being configured to recognise various body shapes.

Some countries in Europe have recognised the sensitivity of the issue and the potential embarrassment of being taken aside for a further check, and have opted against buying the same type of security scanner.

The woman's social post left many fellow users wondering why a common bodily function warranted a more invasive check by air security officials.

So if you find yourself passing through a US security checkpoint, it may be beneficial to pack some baby powder to help stay dry and avoid ending up in the secondary screening lane.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Effective non-steroidal approach for eczema & dermatitis management

Dermal Therapy's Eczema & Dermatitis range is formulated to help treat and manage mild eczema and dermatitis without the use of steroids.

The range includes the Face & Eyelid Eczema Cream, Eczema & Dermatitis Cream, and Eczema & Dermatitis Lotion, each enriched with colloidal oatmeal to relieve itch, calm irritation, and support the skin's natural barrier.

The range is free from artificial fragrances and colourants, nut oils and parabens, and is ideal for sensitive skin.

RRP:

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Dermal Therapy Eczema & Dermatitis Cream: \$19.99

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Website: [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.



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Website: [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

EDITORIAL

Editor - Karina Bray

Deputy Editor - Matt Lennan

Journalists - Adam Bishop, Myles

Stedman, Janie Medbury

Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper

Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller

Editorial Director - Damian Francis

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing

Sean Harrigan

advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

GENERAL MANAGER & PUBLISHER

Matthew Vince

ACCOUNTS

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

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