



### Statins for elderly?

**QUESTIONS** have been raised around cholesterol lowering medication for the elderly by new research which suggests there may be no benefit or even potential harm in the widely prescribed statins - [CLICK HERE](#) for the study.



### Coffee still going cold?

Join a pharmacy group that's hot on dispensary efficiency and effectiveness, so you can enjoy a nice hot cup of coffee

AND FOCUS ON WHAT'S IMPORTANT  
YOUR CUSTOMER

## WIZARD pharmacy

[CLICK HERE](#) to meet the family

## New competency standards

**AUSTRALIA'S** peak pharmacy bodies have formally released a revised competency standards framework for pharmacists, which has been endorsed by all 11 member organisations of the Pharmacy Practitioner Development Committee (PPDC).

The new *National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists in Australia 2016* is the outcome of a two-year project to review the previous document.

The work was funded by financial contributions of member organisations, along with matching funding from the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

The 2016 framework includes five sections: Professionalism and ethics; Communication and collaboration; Medicines management and patient care; Leadership and management; and Education and research.

The Leadership and Management domain was significantly expanded and includes two standards "which

are universally applicable to all pharmacists regardless of their role or place of practice.

The PPDC is currently working on the development of practice support tools for the implementation of the new framework, some of which will be funded by the Pharmacy Board.

The Committee is also considering an appropriate transition timeframe, recognising that the current framework is well embedded across all facets of the profession, including pharmacists' continuing professional development plans.

The Pharmacy Board & Australian Pharmacy Council will also determine an implementation date with respect to intern assessment - [advancedpharmacypractice.com.au](http://advancedpharmacypractice.com.au).

### Final cannabis decision

**THE** Department of Health has given notice of its final decision and reasons around the scheduling of cannabis, amending the Poisons Standard.

The various forms of medicinal cannabis have scheduling ranging from S4 (2% or less concentration cannabinoid) through to S9 (for tetrahydrocannabinols and their alkyl homologues).

Visit [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au) for details.

### Ultra-potent vanco

**US SCIENTISTS** have re-engineered vancomycin in a bid to wipe out the world's superbugs, according to a *BBC* report.

The new vancomycin is claimed to be one thousand times more potent than the current drug, in part because of a three-way mode of action.

### Symbion sacking

**SYMBION** Contract Logistics yesterday confirmed the dismissal of an employee from its Sydney distribution facility, after an internal investigation into allegations of tampering leading to the voluntary recall of Valium 5mg (*PD* Mon).

The company has referred the matter to NSW Police, with Symbion saying it's confident this was an isolated incident affecting only a small number of blister packs.

### Blackmores vision

**BLACKMORES** chief operating officer Richard Henfrey yesterday highlighted the company's "operational fitness" which has seen infrastructure established to position the business for "explosive volume growth".

According to a shareholder briefing, Blackmores has a global scope for expansion, with extensive overseas operations and China emerging as the firm's "single most important overseas market".

The company is firmly grasping hold of the digital revolution, both internally and externally, with initiatives including "nutritional and health AI assistants" and online engagement with customers.

## COPD: demonstrating devices, evaluating medicines

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## Dispensary Corner

**A NEW** health crisis in north-eastern Brazil is truly the stuff of nightmares.

One man is dead and more than 40 others are being treated for possible exposure to rabies, after a bizarre series of attacks by so-called 'vampire' bats (pictured).

Victims have reported waking with bed sheets soaked with blood after the flying rodents nibbled on their toes, heels and elbows while they were asleep.

The man who died was a farmer, who was bitten after stepping on a bat and dismissing the injury rather than seeking medical attention.

Three weeks later he was hospitalised suffering headaches, nausea and severe anxiety, and recalled the incident as doctors searched for a cause.

He tested positive for rabies but unfortunately it was too late to administer the vaccine and he died a short time later.

Officials issued a formal warning which led to a spate of reports from others about the bites.

The nocturnal bats are native to South America, and feed on blood, puncturing the skin of their prey - usually horses, cattle or other animals - with sharp teeth.

A spokesperson for the rabies surveillance unit confirmed there had been changes in bat behaviour and an increase in the local population due to deforestation.



## DDS: MedAdvisor, FRED NXT

**DISCOUNT** Drug Stores (DDS) this week announced new initiatives and technological advancements at its tenth national conference, in Noumea, New Caledonia, including a new pain management program, the launch of a health food and organics project, partnerships with script reminder service MedAdvisor and the implementation of its Next Generation Retail Platform powered by FRED NXT (*PD* breaking news yesterday).

In the face of PBS reforms and the challenges of a relatively stagnant retail market, DDS said it aimed to continue leading the way in new customer service developments and dispensary workflow innovations, which had already seen

the brand maintain its GP% and grow its total sales 2.9% excluding high cost drugs.

Discount Pharmacy Retail Group gm Douglas Kuskopf-Dallas told delegates the company's investment into new initiatives allowed the brand to adapt to the challenging times of the industry and better serve its customers.



"Our focus is to deliver the highest standard of healthcare advice and deliver industry leading professional services such as our newly launched pain management program, which no other pharmacy group is currently offering, and our diabetes management program which helps pharmacists tap into the 6CPA funding and meet community healthcare needs," Kuskopf-Dallas said.

"We are continuing to leverage our Dispensary Ready program by introducing new training programs to help our stores improve their dispensary workflow, freeing our

pharmacists up to spend more time with customers," he added.

A new health food and organics category will see the brand move towards its goal of becoming a total holistic healthcare destination.

"There is a continual need to meet the ever-changing requirements and demands of our customers, and we're excited to see the integration of this new holistic healthcare project into our network of existing stores," he said.

## Burns first aid critical

**THE** Department of Health marks National Burns Awareness Month through Jun with a focus on getting first aid measures right through awareness and education.

With 88% of burns happening in the home, some two thirds of Australians mistakenly believe that home remedies, such as applying ice or an icepack, can help, according to new research commissioned by Mundipharma, the manufacturers of minor burns salve products branded Burnaid.

Go to [mundicare.com.au](http://mundicare.com.au) for more.

## Spirometry for COPD

**A NEW** educational program on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), launched by NPS MedicineWise in Mar (*PD* 01 Mar), includes a reminder on the critical importance of spirometry in diagnosing the condition, which is estimated to affect 1.45 million Australians, NPS states in a release.

Spirometry is considered the "gold standard" in measuring airflow limitation according to NPS MedicineWise medical adviser Dr Andrew Boyden.

Visit [nps.org.au](http://nps.org.au) for more.

## Travel Specials

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

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## Travelmarvel Fly Free to Europe Offer

**GLOBAL** travel specialist company Travelmarvel is offering free flights to Europe when booking a Prague to Paris 21-day cruise, or Amsterdam to Budapest 15-day cruise under their "European Gems" deals.

Be quick as these offers are only available until sold out, Travelmarvel says.

Some deals also save \$1,000 per couple when land tour combinations are included.

Check out [travelmarvel.com.au](http://travelmarvel.com.au).

## Last call - Viking Earlybird Special

**BOOK** your 2018 European cruise with Viking River Cruises by 30 Jun 2107 for savings of up to \$2,000 per couple or flights included under certain conditions.

Free flights from Australia come with any stateroom category booking on Europe or Russia cruises of 13 days or more, including taxes.

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See [vikingrivercruises.com.au](http://vikingrivercruises.com.au).

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