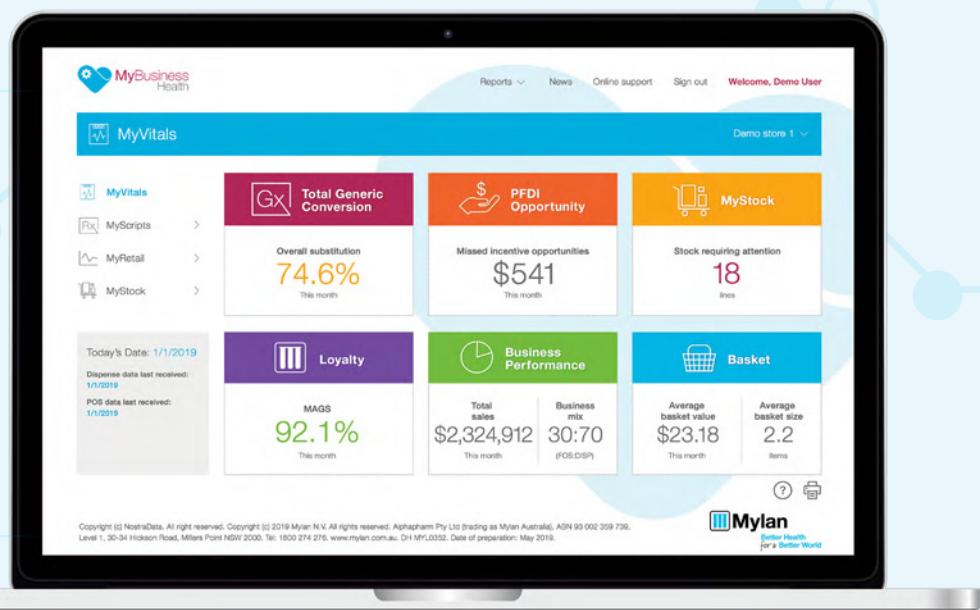


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Friday 19th July 2019

## Work underway to bring RTPM to NSW

**NSW** is set to join Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT in implementing a real-time prescription medicine monitoring system (RTPM).

A spokesperson for NSW Health Minister, Brad Hazzard, told **Pharmacy Daily** that "work is already underway" to develop an RTPM for the state.

With NSW joining the push for RTPM, Western Australia is the only state yet to indicate it will implement a system to tackle doctor shopping.

News that the state will introduce real-time monitoring comes less than a month after Hazzard's colleague Rob Stokes, NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, raised the issue in an address to the state's Legislative Assembly.

Stokes said he had been alerted to the need for an RTPM by a family in his Pittwater constituency, whose daughter died on 16 May after an overdose.

He told the Assembly that the deceased woman, Rachael Brown, had developed an addiction to prescription sleeping pills after her father had been severely injured 12 years ago.

As her addiction spiralled out of control she would travel around the Northern Beaches and Sydney to obtain scripts from GPs who were unaware of her addiction, and then visit pharmacies to have the prescriptions filled.

Stokes said Brown's mother, Cheryl, "would visit the GPs and the pharmacies asking for them to voluntarily share with her whether Rachael sought prescriptions from them, as any concerned mother would earnestly do".

"Some would, some would not on the grounds of patient confidentiality," he said

"Cheryl told me that a couple of pharmacies would call her when she was at her wits' end saying, 'Rachael is here now' so she knew

### 4 ways to help build strong bones



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Use only as directed. Consult your healthcare professional if symptoms persist.



### Today's issue of PD

**Pharmacy Daily** today has two pages of news, a front cover wrap from **Mylan** plus a full page from **Razor Group**.



where her daughter was and could go to collect her."

A number of state coroners across the country have called to the implementation of RTPM "ideally as part of a national system", to combat the rise of prescription-drug-related deaths (**PD** 27 Jun), while Pharmaceutical Society of Australia NSW Branch President, Peter Carroll, had expressed disappointment that the State Government had not found funding for real-time monitoring in the Budget (**PD** 19 Jun).

### Mylan insights

**MYLAN** is highlighting its updated My Business Health platform which helps pharmacies track and improve key metrics - see [cover page](#).

### Light mask recall

**JOHNSON & Johnson Pacific**, in consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), is recalling Neutrogena Visibly Clear Light Therapy Acne Mask and Activator.

The device is also being withdrawn from the market due to potential irreversible retinal damage - [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

### Embedding pharmacists is key - PSA

THE alarming issue of medicine-related harm in residential aged care facilities could be improved by embedding pharmacists, according to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA).

A new PSA submission to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety has called for a national program to embed pharmacists across the country.

PSA National President, Chris Freeman, said residents in the facilities "deserve to have timely and regular access to the expertise of a pharmacist if they require advice and support with their medicines and medicine management".

"The health of the aged care sector matters a great deal to pharmacists and many pharmacists already contribute to activities and services to improve resident safety and system changes impacting on quality and safety in health care

facilities," he said.

Freeman highlighted the PSA's recent *Medicine Safety: Take Care* report which showed that 98% of residents in residential aged care facilities had at least one medicine related problem, and more than half were exposed to at least one potentially inappropriate medicine.

"Pharmacists, with their unique expertise in medicines and medicine management, are ideally placed to identify and help resolve these issues".

The PSA President said it had been clear through evidence provided to the Royal Commission that "we need to have pharmacists protecting patients from the inappropriate prescribing and use of medicines."

He also called for other measures including aged care workforce education and training by pharmacist and timely access to Residential Medication Management Reviews.

### Celltrion Healthcare joins GBMA

KOREAN biopharmaceutical company, Celltrion Healthcare, has indicated its intention to join Australia's Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA).

The company will be the first GBMA member to join the new internal subgroup, Biosimilar Membership.

GBMA Chief Executive Officer, Marnie Peterson, welcomed Celltrion Healthcare's



engagement saying, "This is further evidence of the role that biosimilar medicines can play in ensuring a sustainable healthcare system for Australian patients, particularly for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme".



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- **Pharmacist Manager** - Central Coast, QLD (Job# 200032689)  
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- **Pharmacist** - Great Ocean Road region, VIC (Job# 200032647)  
Alternating weekends; Relocation assistance; Passionate pharmacy team!

Your Pharmacy Recruitment Experts

Friday 19th July 2019



## Dispensary Corner

**PROFESSIONAL** cycling has long been the domain of amateur "pharmacists", with competitors notoriously investing considerable time and effort into learning about various compounds.

This passion for pharmacy is coming to Australian TV screens this weekend as part of a HBO Mockumentary, *Tour de Pharmacy*, and will air on the Comedy Channel at 8:30pm eastern time.

The 40-minute parody mixes "archival footage" from a fictional 1982 race, airing "interviews" with the participants around the "dopest year in Le Tour history".

During the show it is revealed that one rider had a cocktail of EPO, cocaine, anabolic steroids, oxabolone, nandrolone, norethandrolone, furazabol, heroin, oxycodone, MDA, crystal meth and "hormone from monkey testicles", as he sought to get an edge over the competition.

The airing of the show will conclude just in time for viewers to flick over to SBS and marvel at the feats of the modern peloton!



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## Amcal in diabetes race



**HOPING** to repeat last year's successful diabetes awareness and education campaign in partnership with diabetes patient, Mobil 1 MEGA Racing Supercars driver and fan favourite, Jack Perkins (**pictured**), Amcal Pharmacy is teaming up with the speed king once more.

The focus this year will be to break down attitudinal barriers for the more than 630,000 Australians living with diabetes.

Amcal General Manager, Brian Tomlin, commented on the importance of highlighting the realities of living with, and the importance of, managing diabetes.

"Our research into diabetes indicates that negative attitudes and misconceptions among the general public regarding diabetes largely still exists," he said.

"For example, more than a quarter of Australians still consider diabetes to be a self-inflicted disease and a burden on the health system.

"By inviting Australians into Jack's diabetes journey, we are able to humanise and amplify the possibilities when living with diabetes along with connecting and speaking directly with those Australians who may feel isolated."

For more, visit [amcal.com.au](http://amcal.com.au).

## Win with John Plunkett

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away the Superfade Accelerator plus a John Plunkett cosmetic bag.

Superfade Accelerator can be used for quicker results with Superfade Creams or alone to help remove superficial pigmentation. Contains a blend of AHAs including Ferulic acid cytovectors to gently exfoliate. RRP \$19.95. Visit: [www.Superfade.com.au](http://www.Superfade.com.au) for more.

To win, be the first from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Is Superfade Accelerator used in the day or night?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Chi Nguyen.



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