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# PSA welcomes early 8CPA talks

**HEALTH** Minister Mark Butler's announcement that negotiations for the 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA) will start as soon as possible and conclude by 30 Jun next year (**PD** yesterday) has been hailed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA).

Fei Sim, PSA National President (**pictured**), said it was vital to secure the short-term viability of the community pharmacy sector, particularly in light of the huge changes taking place such as 60-day dispensing.

"PSA looks forward to working with the Government and the Pharmacy Guild to drive better and safer access to medicines for Australians," she said.

"We need to do more to reduce the preventable harm medicines are causing in Australia...up to half of the 250,000 hospital admissions per year in Australia due to medicine-related problems are



preventable," Sim added.

Key priorities for the PSA include enabling pharmacists to practice to their full scope, with Sim urging that the agreement should deliver better access to care "by cementing the core role of pharmacists as the

stewards for safe and effective use of medicines".

She said PSA was committed to working constructively and collaboratively during the negotiations to deliver outcomes including "better ways for pharmacists to show the impact of the care they provide".

Sim noted that the PSA would seek to drive "evaluation measures" in 8CPA programs to help show how pharmacists play a key role every day in supporting safer and more effective use of medicines.

The PSA President also urged a closer alignment between the 8CPA and the 01 Sep commencement of 60-day dispensing, saying "pharmacists need certainty now that the care they provide will remain viable in the short term".

"As a profession, pharmacists can do more and want to do more, but we cannot keep doing more with less," she concluded.

## SHPA plans Deprescribing Action Week

**AWARENESS** of issues around polypharmacy and deprescribing will be a key focus next week in a special initiative from The Society of Hospital Pharmacists (SHPA).

The SHPA will highlight the role of the sector in medication-related harm minimisation as part of MedsAware Week 2023 taking place 14-20 Aug.

A webinar will take place next Wed 16 Aug (**REGISTER HERE**) providing an overview of deprescribing and tools that can be used in clinical practice, with

SHPA President Tom Simpson saying "deprescribing is in the DNA of SHPA" after the world's first published use of the term occurred two decades ago in the Society's flagship *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*.

"MedsAware Week 2023 seeks to empower Australians and their carers, family and friends, together with pharmacists, doctors and other care team members, to optimise every medicines regimen to ensure it is current, effective and safe," he said.

## Pharmacy Own

**CH2** is today showcasing its new Pharmacy Own brand of over-the-counter medicines, offering a range of products with excellent margins.

For more information see **page four** of today's **PD**.

## Today's issue of PD

**Pharmacy Daily** today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Pharmacy Own
- PharmXchange

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## AMA pressures opposition

**THE** Federal Coalition's stance on 60-day dispensing remains "shrouded in mystery" according to the Australian Medical Association (AMA), which has today accused the opposition of "failing to be upfront with Australians by not revealing whether the Coalition supports cheaper medicines".

AMA President, Steve Robson, continued his attacks on pharmacy, saying resistance to the 60DD policy is an "irresponsible scare campaign orchestrated by those who are putting profits before patients".

"Patients have been waiting years for cheaper medicine, as this policy has effectively been on hold since the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee recommended it and the former Coalition government attempted to implement this recommendation in 2019," the AMA President said.

"Now is the time to finally get this done," he said, confirming he had written last month to Opposition Leader Peter Dutton urging him to clarify the Coalition's stance.

Robson also highlighted that the Greens were still to reveal their position publicly, saying "patients deserve clarity on whether next month is finally the time they can



start saving time and money".

The AMA pressure on opposition parties comes in the face of a proposed "disallowance motion" in the Senate, which would provide a pause in the implementation of the policy and enable further consideration on its impact and unintended consequences.

The Pharmacy Guild has joined with patient groups and the Pharmaceutical Society in support of the Senate motion (PD yesterday) which, if approved, "will provide more time for the Government to consult and get this policy right," the Guild advised.

## Connect for free

**PHARMACISTS** and pharmacy staff wanting to network with suppliers can attend the trade exhibition at the upcoming Pharmacy Connect conference in Sydney at no charge.

More than 55 exhibitors will be taking part in the event which kicks off in just over three weeks, on 01 Sep.

Pharmacy Guild National President Trent Twomey and NSW Branch President David Heffernan have produced a video showcasing the event and why it's important for pharmacists to register for the conference sessions - view it at [pharmacydaily.com.au/videos](http://pharmacydaily.com.au/videos).



## Huge demand for POTY 2024

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia today reported a whopping 46% increase in nominations for its 2024 Guild Pharmacy of the Year awards.

A total of 731 submissions had been received when nominations closed at the end of Jul - well up from the 500-plus the previous year.

"It's a sign that each year the awards get bigger and better, with more nominations and a higher level of innovation from the candidates," the Guild said.

The Guild Pharmacy of the Year awards are now in their 24th year, having launched back in 1990, with the Guild confirming it will be undertaking a review of the program including the introduction of new categories "that will recognise both the practice and practitioner in areas of scope".

## Connection to national PDS is essential

**PHARMACIES** must be linked to the national Prescription Delivery Service (PDS) by 30 Sep in order to be able to dispense eligible electronic scripts, with the Department of Health and Aged Care urging proprietors to make the connection by registering as soon as possible.

The system will lead to long-term funding to enable more efficiency and innovation, provide clearer governance and reduce the complexity of the prescription delivery ecosystem, according to an update from the Pharmacy Guild today.

The introduction of the national PDS will also see the end of the current 15c electronic

prescription fee, the Guild noted.

Pharmacy registrations for the platform can be done online via [register.erp.com.au/aspharmacy](http://register.erp.com.au/aspharmacy), with the platform requiring always-on broadband connectivity and scanners on dispensing computers to process eRx barcodes efficiently.

The Government-funded national prescription exchange covers SMS fees and offers clear governance plus enhanced capacity for patient-centred care.

Pharmacies are not charged transaction fees for using the national PDS, and should check with dispensing software providers about any required software updates.



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### Dispensary Corner

**TIGHTENING** economic conditions in the USA have prompted a restaurateur in Ocean City, Maryland to start a side hustle by making soap out of bacon grease.

The diner owner, Sam Delauter, says he's been hit hard by rising prices for ingredients, and used an idea from his great-grandmother who made her own soap to help survive the Great Depression in the 1920s.

"We're frying off so much bacon each day, and I saw all that grease," he said.

"I called my grandfather and he walked me through the recipe, and I came up with something I really liked."

Meat-lovers will perhaps be disappointed to find that the fat is thoroughly cleaned so it no longer smells like bacon - and he then adds flavours like rose, geranium, clove and lavender.

In a further masterpiece of recycling and reuse, the enterprising Delauter also flavours some of the soaps with leftover coffee grinds from his eatery, with the new products proving so popular that as well as selling them to customers in the diner he's launched a website with nationwide delivery at [bumblesoap.com](http://bumblesoap.com).



## Pharmacy ethics focus of new FIP report

**PRACTISING** pharmacists must be "fully engaged and competent to deal with ethical issues arising from the increasing challenges of hi-tech health care and its delivery in a business environment," according to a new report from the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP).

*Ethics and the pharmacist: Privacy and confidentiality* has been produced by the FIP Community Pharmacy Section, and provides insights into the practical implementation of the professional ethics of privacy and confidentiality of pharmacists across 17 nations.

While the data showed a number of indicators of good practice, some of the findings were concerning, including gaps in current training programs both pre- and post-graduation.

Also worrying was an



"infrastructure that is not conducive to preserving confidentiality" in some pharmacies.

"Our profession is undergoing a transformation towards more clinical roles in patient care,

providing services such as medication therapy management, immunisation and health screening.

"Lack of privacy and confidentiality in certain geographical areas are crucial obstacles that could inhibit service utilisation," the authors noted.

The report highlights successful approaches globally including in Australia, where the Australian Pharmacy Council mandates teaching institutions to integrate the teaching of pharmacy ethics into the curriculum as a criterion to be met for pharmacy accreditation.

However the authors concluded that compared with other health care practices such as nursing and medicine, "ethics receives relatively little attention in pharmacy practice".

The report is available for download at [fip.org](http://fip.org).

## PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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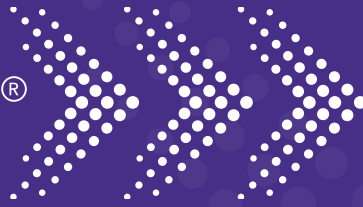
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