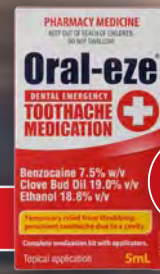


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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from Wholelife Pharmacy and the July MIMS Update.

Ozempic advice

THE shortage of Ozempic (semaglutide) has been extended to 31 Dec, although supply is expected to remain steady, the TGA has stated.

Ozempic will continue to only be used for registered Australian indications.

In an update to previous advice, Ozempic can now also be prescribed for patients who meet these criteria and have not received it previously.

To assist consumers and health professionals, the TGA has published a web statement that provides more information about this Ozempic supply update, [HERE](#).

60-DD pharmacy kit out

THE Dept of Health and Aged Care's Pharmacy kit - PBS medicines with increased dispensing quantities is now available, [HERE](#), for all community pharmacists (PD Breaking News yesterday).

The 10-page kit provides information, FAQs and case studies to pharmacists about changes to PBS medicines with increased dispensing quantities (60-day dispensing).

In answering a key question - what if your pharmacy only has one box of medicine? The Dept has clearly warned that "pharmacists, in exercising flexibility, must not charge a patient twice if providing half of the prescribed quantity".

"If there is only one box of a medicine available and the prescription requires two boxes, pharmacists may dispense the full amount (two boxes) according to the prescription, and order in a second box of medicine from the medicine wholesaler.

"For most medicines, wholesalers



are required to deliver to any pharmacy within 24 hours.

"The consumer would then collect the second box of medicine without charge when the pharmacy receives it.

"The consumer must not pay the co-payment twice."

However, the Dept has stated, "where a brand price premium or a therapeutic group premium applies, two packs (usually two months' supply) of medicines will attract two premiums".

The 60-DD policy does not change the flexibility that pharmacists already have in amending a script if needed, and where necessary, by contacting the prescriber.

Nimble systems

KEY health organisations are stepping up their advocacy efforts with supplies of a critical pain relief medication forecast to run out.

A group of 18 organisations, led by Palliative Care Australia, have joined forces to amplify the concerns expressed by health professionals and patients as Mundipharma's withdrawal of liquid morphine Ordine from the Australian market draws closer - see [HERE](#).

People nearing the end of their life or undergoing cancer treatment, including children are most at risk.

"This is the fourth opioid to have supply challenges in Australia in recent times," said Josh Fear, National Policy Director, Palliative Care Australia, adding that "Australia needs more nimble systems for anticipating and responding to disruptions in the supply of medicines".

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Bianco L et al., J Am Geriatr Soc 2012; 60:1180-1.



Butler at PSA23

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced that Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler will attend PSA23 in Sydney on 28 Jul (*PD* Breaking News today).

PSA National President Dr Fei Sim FPS said that there had never been a more important time for the Minister to address pharmacists.

"PSA23 will be an opportunity for pharmacists to hear directly from the Health Minister, as well as the Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride on the significant policy changes impacting our profession."

The Shadow Health Minister Senator Anne Ruston will also address delegates on Sat 29 Jul.

Vic, WA and Tas finalists

PHARMACY Assistant Amanda Carlyle from Malmsbury Pharmacy, has been chosen to represent Victoria at the national finals of the 2023 Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award (PATY).

While Janine Byrne from Direct Chemist Outlet in Lalor took out this year's Glucojel Super Star Award for Victoria.

Alicia Ward from TerryWhite Chemmart Kingsley in Perth has been chosen to represent Western Australia at the PATY national finals, followed by Rebecca Summers from Kinross Pharmacy who won this year's Glucojel Super Star Award for WA.

The state finalist for Tasmania is Jemma Denholm from Good Price Pharmacy Warehouse in Devonport, while Cassandra



Death from TerryWhite Chemmart Riverside won this year's Glucojel Super Star Award for Tas.

All the finalists are in the running to take home more than \$10,000 in prizes including a \$5,000 cash prize, a training package, educational opportunities and other rewards.

The national winner will be announced at the PA 2023 conference - see more **HERE**.

Diversify to grow

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See more on **page four**.

S4 to S3 change

VIATRIS' Relpax Migraine (eletriptan) is available over the counter following the decision to down-schedule the medicine from Schedule 4 to Schedule 3.

The decision to approve Relpax Migraine was made by the TGA which opens a pathway for patients suffering from migraine to access treatment earlier and to return to their everyday life sooner.

The Schedule 3 change will see Relpax Migraine available in a small pack (maximum two tablets) without a prescription.

Schedule 4 larger packs (40 & 80mg) will still be available and will require a prescription.

Relpax Migraine should be taken as soon as possible after the start of a migraine.

Relpax Migraine provides migraine relief that begins working in as early as 30 mins.

To receive Relpax Migraine, people suffering from acute migraine should discuss their symptoms with their GP or their pharmacist to learn more about the suitability of this treatment and accessing it over the counter.

New L'Oréal CEO



RODRIGO Pizarro has hung up his boots as CEO of L'Oréal Australia and New Zealand, having passed on the role to Alex Davison (**pictured**).

Davison began his journey with L'Oréal in 2016 as General Manager of the L'Oréal Dermatological Beauty Division and before that was at Procter & Gamble for 17 years.

NMS23 will focus on reducing waste

IN AUSTRALIA, healthcare contributes close to 7% of the nation's greenhouse gases, with medicines being one of the largest contributors.

Pharmaceutical waste throughout the global supply chain has led to environmental, human, & animal toxicities, and in the case of antibiotic residues, to antimicrobial resistance.

Hosted for the first time by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, the virtual National Medicines Symposium 2023 (NMS23) will bring together leading organisations, experts, clinicians,

consumers and policymakers in a timely discussion on emerging and key issues around sustainability and the quality use of medicines.

The NMS23 theme is 'The future of medicines: good for people, good for the planet!'

The symposium to be held on 08 Nov, **HERE**, will explore how incorporating sustainable practices in healthcare settings, including the appropriate use of medicines can improve the safety and quality of care, improve the health of the community, and reduce low-value care, unwarranted variation & waste.

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Dispensary Corner

CATS are considered lucky in Japan, and owners of the popular pets spend big on their care, reported *Yahoo! News*.

But how do you know when they are 'feline' down?

A tech firm and university in Tokyo have teamed up to produce an app trained on thousands of cat photos that they say can tell you when the puss is in pain.

Since its release last month, 'Cat Pain Detector' has racked up 43,000 users, mostly in Japan but also in Europe and South America, said Go Sakioka, head of the developer, Carelogy.

The app is part of a growing array of tech for pet owners concerned for their furry friends' wellbeing, including similar mood and pain trackers made in Canada and Israel.

Carelogy teamed up with Nihon University's College of Bioresource Sciences to gather 6,000 cat photos, in which they carefully studied the positions of the animals' ears, noses, whiskers and eyelids.

They then used a scoring system designed by the University of Montreal to measure minute differences between healthy cats and those suffering pain due to hard-to-spot illnesses.

Next, the app developers fed the information into an AI detection system, which has further refined its skills thanks to around 600,000 photos uploaded by users, Sakioka said.

Now the app "has an accuracy level of more than 90%," he explained.

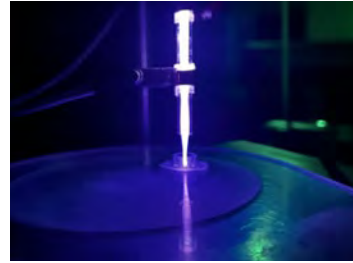
Cold plasma buys time against AMR

NEW research has uncovered a way to amplify the power of antibiotics by using cold atmospheric-pressure plasma as a weapon to enhance its strength.

The scientific advancement could provide a solution to the global health crisis of antibiotic resistance, say the researchers, and has been published in the journal *Biofilm*.

Led by Queen's University Belfast in collaboration with Thomas Jefferson University, USA, the research has discovered that merging cold plasma and antibiotics, can significantly weaken *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* biofilms, a common bacterium that often causes hard-to-treat infections, making it more susceptible to treatment, (**pictured** a plasma jet).

"Our research demonstrates the immense potential of combining



cold plasma with antibiotics in the fight against superbugs," explained Jordanne Maybin, a PhD student from the School of Pharmacy at Queen's University Belfast, and a lead author of the study.

"It's a potential breakthrough that could buy time in the race against antibiotic resistance."

Dr Thomas Thompson, Research Fellow from the School of Pharmacy at Queen's University Belfast and co-author of the study

added, "as both a scientist and a pharmacist, I have witnessed the growing problem of antibiotic resistance".

"Our research has given us an edge, and is providing a well-needed turbo boost to our antibiotics."

Prof Brendan Gilmore who leads the Biofilm Research Group in the School of Pharmacy at Queen's University Belfast, and principle investigator added, "cold plasmas are a recent antimicrobial technology and this combination not only offers a potential route to the effective management of infections with much lower doses of antibiotics than are normally needed, but also some important observations in how bacteria respond to cold plasma treatment, which will allow us to optimise the technology further".

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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New Products

- **Finerenone (Kerendia)** is a nonsteroidal antagonist of the mineralocorticoid receptor (MR) that potently attenuates inflammation and fibrosis mediated by MR overactivation. The MR is expressed in the kidneys, heart and blood vessels where finerenone also counteracts sodium retention and hypertrophic processes. Finerenone has high selectivity for the MR due to its nonsteroidal structure and bulky binding mode. Its binding to the MR leads to a specific receptor ligand complex that blocks recruitment of transcriptional coactivators implicated in the expression of pro-inflammatory and pro-fibrotic mediators. *Kerendia is indicated to delay progressive decline of kidney function in adults with chronic kidney disease associated with Type 2 diabetes (with albuminuria), in addition to standard of care.* Kerendia is contraindicated in patients taking concomitant medications that are strong CYP3A4 inhibitors (e.g., itraconazole, ketoconazole, ritonavir, nelfinavir, cobicistat, clarithromycin, telithromycin and nefazodone) and patients with adrenal insufficiency. Kerendia tablets contain finerenone 10 or 20 mg and are available in packs of 28.
- **Inclisiran (Leqvio)** is a cholesterol-lowering double-stranded small interfering ribonucleic acid, conjugated on the sense strand with triantennary N-acetylgalactosamine to facilitate uptake by hepatocytes. In hepatocytes, inclisiran utilises the RNA interference mechanism and directs catalytic breakdown of mRNA for proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9. This increases low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) receptor recycling and expression on the hepatocyte cell surface, which increases LDL-C uptake and lowers LDL-C levels in the circulation. *Leqvio is indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to reduce LDL-C in adults with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia, atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, or at high risk of a cardiovascular event: in combination with a statin or statin with other lipid-lowering therapies in patients unable to reach LDL-C goals with the maximum tolerated dose of a statin; or alone or in combination with other lipid-lowering therapies in patients who are statin-intolerant.* Leqvio solution for injection contains inclisiran 284 mg per 1.5 mL in a pre-filled syringe and is available in a pack of 1.

New Presentation

- **Acalabrutinib (as maleate monohydrate) (Calquence)** is now available as a tablet. *Calquence is indicated for the treatment of patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma. It also has provisional approval for the treatment of patients with mantle cell lymphoma who have received at least one prior therapy.* Calquence tablets contain acalabrutinib 100 mg and are available in packs of 56.
- **Midazolam (as maleate) (Zyamis)** is now available as an oromucosal solution. *Zyamis, as buccal midazolam, is indicated for the treatment of Generalised Convulsive Status Epilepticus, in those over 6 months old.* Zyamis is contraindicated in patients with myasthenia gravis, with hypersensitivity to benzodiazepines, in shock or coma, in acute alcoholic intoxication with depression of vital signs, and with acute narrow angle glaucoma. It may be used in patients with open angle glaucoma only if they are receiving appropriate therapy. Zyamis is available in a pre-filled oral syringe containing midazolam 5 mg/0.5 mL or 10 mg/1 mL in packs of 1.
- **Misoprostol (Angusta)** is now available as a 25 mcg tablet. *Angusta is indicated for induction of labour.* Angusta is contraindicated when labour has started; when there is suspicion or evidence of foetal compromise prior to induction (e.g., failed non-stress or stress test, meconium staining or diagnosis or history of non-reassuring foetal status); when oxytocic drugs and/or other labour induction agents are being given; when there is suspicion or evidence of uterine scar resulting from previous uterine or cervical surgery, e.g. caesarean delivery; when there is uterine abnormality (e.g. bicornuate uterus) preventing vaginal delivery; when there is placenta praevia or unexplained vaginal bleeding after 24 weeks gestation with this pregnancy; when there is foetal malpresentation, contraindicating vaginal delivery; and in patients with kidney failure (GFR < 15 mL/min/1.73 m²). Angusta tablets contain misoprostol 25 mcg and are available in packs of 8.

New Indications

- **Baricitinib (Olumiant)** is now indicated for the treatment of severe alopecia areata in adult patients in whom other treatments have failed or are not appropriate and no spontaneous improvement is observed.
- **Cemiplimab (Libtayo)** is now indicated in combination with platinum-based chemotherapy for the first-line treatment of patients with NSCLC whose tumours have no EGFR, ALK or ROS1 aberrations and are locally advanced where patients are not candidates for surgical resection or definitive chemoradiation, or metastatic.
- **Lumacaftor and ivacaftor (Orkambi)** is now indicated for patients 1 year and older who are homozygous for the *F508del* mutation in the *CFTR* gene.
- **Ravulizumab (Ultomiris)** is now indicated as an add-on to standard therapy for the treatment of adult patients with generalized myasthenia gravis who are anti-acetylcholine receptor antibody-positive.

New Contraindications

- **Desogestrel and ethinylestradiol (Marvelon 28)** is now contraindicated for concomitant use with glecaprevir and pibrentasvir.
- **Ethinylestradiol and etonogestrel (NuvaRing)** is now contraindicated for concomitant use with glecaprevir and pibrentasvir.

- **Grass pollen allergen extracts** (Oralair) is now contraindicated in patients with severe uncontrolled or unstable asthma (FEV1 < 70% of predicted value) or severe exacerbation of asthma within the previous 3 months; active or poorly controlled autoimmune disease, immune defects, immunodeficiencies or immunosuppression or malignant neoplastic diseases with current disease relevance; severe oral inflammation (such as oral lichen planus, oral ulcerations or oral mycosis). Initiation of allergen immunotherapy treatment during pregnancy is contraindicated.
- **Iodised oil (Lipiodol Ultra Fluid)** is now contraindicated for use in hysterosalpingography in patients with known or suspected reproductive tract neoplasia.

Safety Related Changes

- **Risdiplam (Evrysdi)** may now be used in infants less than 2 months of age. No data are available in infants below 16 days of age (based on corrected age for preterm infants).

*This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month.
Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.*