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* Priceline Pharmacy retail units sales data 1 Jul 2022 – 31 Dec 2022.

^ 2022 Priceline Pharmacy data.

¹ R12 FY23 as at May 2023 Priceline Pharmacy data.



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Sales in seconds

PRICELINE says it sells substantial stock every 60 secs, has an even split between front-of-store and script sales, and a large loyalty club, which can help balance out upcoming proposed industry changes. See more on the **cover page**.

Markets to remove BKL

IT'S the end of an era as S&P Dow Jones announced yesterday that it will remove Australia's leading natural health company Blackmores Limited from the S&P/ASX200, subject to a final court appeal of the Scheme arrangements whereby the company will be acquired by Kirin Health Science Australia Pty Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kirin Holdings Company, Limited (**PD 27 Apr**).

S&P Dow Jones Indices will remove Blackmores Limited effective prior to the opening of trading on Mon 24 Jul 2023.

Blackmores will be replaced by Ventia Services Group Limited in the S&P/ASX 200, also effective prior to trading opening on 24 Jul.

Further, an overwhelming majority (86.74%) of Blackmores' shareholders cast their votes in favour (96.85%) of the proposed Scheme Resolution.

Pleased at the outcome, Blackmores Chair Wendy Stops said, "the proposal from Kirin recognises the strong opportunity that lies ahead for Blackmores as part of Kirin's health science business across the world".

CEO and Managing Director Alastair Symington added, "today marks an important day in the history of the company with Blackmores' shareholders voting in favour of the Scheme...and... we look forward to seizing on the significant opportunity that lies ahead for our employees, or customers, our suppliers and all stakeholders, as well as the value we create for people and communities we serve towards achieving better health outcomes".

The Scheme remains subject to the approval of the Court at the hearing scheduled for tomorrow morning.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus a cover page from **Priceline Pharmacy** and a full page from **Wholelife Pharmacy**.

UK to move on codeine linctus



COUGH syrups or codeine linctus in the UK could no longer be available over-the-counter due to the rising numbers of reports of drug abuse and dependence to codeine medicines being made to the country's medicines safety regulator.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency says the rules around how people get hold of it should be tightened.

"Codeine linctus is an effective medicine, but as it is an opioid, its misuse and abuse can have major health consequences," said Chief Safety Officer Dr Alison Cave.

In Australia in Feb the TGA recalled over 50 pholcodine-containing cough medicines off pharmacy shelves due to its potential for misuse (**PD 01 Mar**).

Tale of woe for Ansell as share price dips

CUSTOMERS of Ansell's surgical and industrial gloves are pulling back on new orders as they whittle down their bloated supplies, placing further earnings pressure on the manufacturer and forcing it to cut staff numbers and scale back production, *The Australian* has reported.

The "destocking" where customers use already purchased gloves rather than order new ones is expected to linger for a few more months, the chief executive of Ansell, Neil Salmon said, adding he did not expect a

recovery until later this year.

For Ansell this would mean weaker earnings for 2023 as its profitability was hit by a range of costs flowing from efficiency programs and redundancies, IT investments and adverse foreign exchange movements.

The latest tale of woe from Ansell saw shares for the surgical and industrial gloves maker plummet as much as 16%, wiping \$500m from the value of the company, after it announced it would be forced to temporarily slow production to "normalise" inventory.

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Anxiety-aid gum

WITH stress and anxiety on the rise, chewing gum that releases calming ingredients has just been launched.

The GoodSpace Anxiety Aid has active ingredients such as ashwagandha, passionflower, green tea, Reishi mushrooms and L-Tyrosine, and is the first of its kind in the southern hemisphere.

What differentiates Goodspace Anxiety Aid from other OTC solutions is the unusual dosage form and the blend of water-soluble active ingredients which dissolve when mixed with saliva.

The buccal absorption route provides direct access to the body's systemic circulation, bypassing degradation from the gastrointestinal tract, resulting in increased bioavailability and therapeutic benefits within minutes.

The aid does not treat severe anxiety or anxiety disorders.

Follow your passion: Sim

ONE thing leads to another and can "land you up in a place you love", was PSA National President Fei Sim's message to aspiring and current pharmacists, who attended the *Pharmacy Daily* and Raven's Pharmacy Careers Summit held virtually on 07 Jul (*PD* 11 Jul).

With 1,200 people attending the event, Sim said she thought she wanted to do medicine when she was in school but "I liked chemistry and I liked helping people and I thought I don't want to be a doctor, maybe I want to be a pharmacist".

"I also hadn't realised the amount of patient interaction, the amount of social responsibility, and just real meaningful contribution and impact that a pharmacist can make on a person's life and their health, it really made me very excited, as today pharmacists are doing much more across any settings where meds are used," Sim said.

"When I did pharmacy 20 years ago with my limited drug knowledge, on my first day I was

selling a box of Cindo painkillers.

"It's a big deal as I had never used it before and was selling it as a transaction at the till or just as a sale with no idea it was unsafe.

"Today the supply of medicines is all about medicine safety, and I feel my role as a pharmacist has become very important when it comes to the safety of patients.

"We offer vaccinations, have access to My Health Record, and Real-Time Monitoring which means we have so much more information on our patients," Sim added.

"This means we make a judgement if a medicine is safe for a patient."

Fei shared she never thought she would be the PSA President.

"It's been a journey, I put my hand up, one thing led to another.

"If I am not happy about something, I say do something about it, don't sit back and do nothing.

"So by being driven by passion, a lot of small incremental changes all add up to where you are going in life," Sim concluded.

Three 10k prizes!

THE Platform Alliance Group has announced the three winning pharmacies that took part in the recent Chemist Discount Centre (CDC) member's loyalty campaign called the Save & Win Club Card promotion.

The winning CDC teams were from Morley Perth (WA), Upper Ferntree Gully (Vic), and Warragul (Vic), whose "diligent efforts" in scanning numerous Club Cards resulted in a "well-deserved \$10,000 winner at each of their stores".

The group stated that the Save and Win Club Card was a drawcard for CDC customers, offering them a chance to win prizes by purchasing eligible catalogue products, by scanning their CDC Club Card in-store.

The promotion rewards loyal customers & provides access to affordable healthcare and wellness products, which echoes the CDC's promise of expert advice at lower prices.

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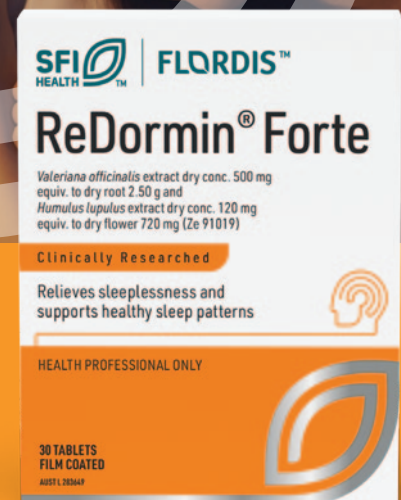
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¹Koetter U, et al., *Phytopher Res.* 2007;21:847-851. ²Fussel A, et al., *Eur J Med Res.* 2000;5:385-390.

³Lataster MJ, et al., *Notabene Medici.* 1996;4:182-185.





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Kids hubs in NSW

FOUR Head to Health Kids Hubs are to be launched in NSW.

The Kids Hubs are a \$35.8 million joint investment by the Australian and NSW Governments and will provide comprehensive, multi-disciplinary mental health and wellbeing care for children under 12, and their families.

Services are govt funded and offer a range of specialist medical and allied health services which may include psychiatrists, psychologists, paediatricians, nurses, social workers, peer workers and Aboriginal Health Workers.

The services will be rolled out progressively until 2027 when all four Kids Hubs will be operational.

The Kids Hubs will be located in Wollongong with outreach to Shoalhaven; Central Coast; Orange with outreach to Bathurst; and Penrith.

The govts will co-fund the Head to Health Kids Hubs under the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement.

Pharmacist and Assistant Minister Emma McBride said, "the Kids Hubs will provide help to children and their families to discuss concerns and give them the tools they need to deal with any issues".

"The hubs provide an accessible place and the right mental health and wellbeing services to support them now and lay the groundwork for the future."

Win one VIP experience

ONE VIP breakfast experience with the 2022 Pharmacy Assistant of the Year, Terri Bakker (pictured), is up for grabs at the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference in Sydney from 31 Aug to 02 Sep.

Reflecting on this year's theme, 'Embrace, Envision, Evolve', the competition and the opportunity to hear and learn from Bakker on her work with her patients and community is "a unique experience for aspiring pharmacy assistants".

National President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Trent Twomey is urging pharmacy assistants to be in the running to attend this year's conference and win the VIP breakfast experience.

"Now, more than ever, pharmacies need staff to look to the future and provide suggestions for improvement and change.

"Entering the competition and gaining exclusive access to an award-winning pharmacy assistant will only further develop the skills of our much-needed pharmacy assistants," said Twomey.

Designed to provide quality education, training and personal development for all pharmacy assistants, the conference will equip pharmacy staff with updated information on current industry trends and product knowledge, and offer opportunities for career advancement.

Also featured during the conference will be the state winners of the 2023 Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year, who will share their stories during a



panel session on Fri 01 Sep before the national winner is announced that night at the Cocktail Party.

Bakker encourages pharmacy assistants to enter the competition and join her and hundreds of colleagues at the conference.

"I've had a fantastic experience learning from suppliers and attending information sessions, plus the opportunities to network with colleagues at the conference are so valuable," shared Bakker.

To enter the competition, pharmacy assistants need to express in 50 words or less why they want to attend the conference and win the VIP breakfast experience with Terri, [HERE](#).

For the first time, the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference will be held in conjunction with Pharmacy Connect, an annual Pharmacy Guild event for pharmacists and pharmacy owners.

The two events will share a 55-plus stand trade exhibition and social functions including the Welcome Reception and Cocktail Party - see more [HERE](#).

Sunscreen recall

MENTHOLATUM Australasia is recalling two batches of its Natural Instinct Kids SPF50+ Clean Sunscreen 200ml topical cream and 50ml rollerball products after receiving reports that the sunscreen fluid is splitting into layers.

The TGA stated that when this happens, the medicinal ingredients that prevent sunburn are not properly mixed, so when it is applied, it may not offer the same protection.

Pharmacists should note that the two batch numbers are 98519 for the topical cream and 98518 for the roll-on, with expiry dates of Nov 2025.

Customers should be advised to check the batch numbers and not use the products, but return them to the place of purchase or contact the manufacturer, [HERE](#).

New NZ standards

NEW Zealand's Pharmacy Council last month published the new *Competence Standards for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Prescribers* along with the new *Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy Programmes*.

The new competence standards will become an integral part of the pharmacy profession in Aotearoa starting from 01 Apr 2024.

Learn more about the changes [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

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Dispensary Corner

A CANADA-based website is celebrating the upcoming release of the live-action *Barbie* film by offering to pay someone \$1,000 to watch and review all 16 animated *Barbie* movies.

Casino.ca said the chosen applicant for "Barbie's Dream Job" will be paid to watch the 16 animated movies released between 2001 and 2009 and rank them by quality.

The winner will also receive \$50 to see *Barbie*, starring Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling (pictured below), when it releases in theatres this week.

They will then be asked to determine where the live-action movie ranks among its animated predecessors.

"For those who grew up in the 90s and 2000s, the original *Barbie* movies represent a nostalgic, simpler time," the website said.

"Were you the *Barbie* buff who owned every iteration of the iconic doll and saw every movie?"

"Or were you the annoying sibling who popped *Barbie's* head off, but secretly loved the films?"

"Either way, there's no denying these cinematic gems hold a significant place in Millennial and Gen Z history."



Public worried about gene screening

DNA screening for risk of disease that can be prevented or treated (like some cancers or heart disease) is being offered to 10,000 Australians, aged 18 to 40 years, through the DNA Screen Pilot Study led by Monash University.

However, nearly two-thirds of Australians believe that gene testing does not necessarily contribute to effective cancer or disease treatment, found a survey by Lonergan on behalf of gene technology company Illumina.

At the same time, researchers from 50 countries have gathered at the International Congress of Genetics, running from now till 21 Jul in Melbourne, to discuss how genetic testing is helping with a wide range of diseases including stuttering, mitochondrial disease, cerebral palsy, and many cancers.

"Gene testing and genomic



medicine are already transforming lives," said Prof Phil Batterham, co-convenor of the Congress.

"Gene testing is helping to save the lives of critically-ill kids and explains the causes of genetic diseases.

"Today, in Melbourne, your genome can be sequenced for a few thousand dollars in a few days.

"And the information can be used to identify your risk of disease, and to create a unique treatment for your cancer."

The survey showed that the majority of people had concerns

around genomics from anxiety over potential disease (38%), data leakage (34%), discoveries raising insurance premiums (24%), to genetic information being used in cloning (23%), and gene editing (24%).

"The survey illustrates the need for further education around the benefits of genomics, and the vital and growing role it plays in medicine," explained Batterham.

"Public understanding of genetic concepts and policy issues are key to enabling informed deliberation and decision-making."

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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