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^ 2022 Priceline Pharmacy data.¹ R12 FY23 as at May 2023 Priceline Pharmacy data.



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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus a front cover wrap from Priceline Pharmacy and a full page from Pharmacy Own.

Success ready

PRICELINE Pharmacy puts you in prime position to succeed with a 50/50 mix of front of shop and script sales, and increased loyalty club visitation to help buffer against industry changes.

See more on the **cover page**.

Decent margins

CH2 has a range of over-the-counter painkillers that offer good value and margins for your pharmacy.

The range also has a number of different pack sizes and strengths.

See more on the **back page**.

FIP urges self-care as key to health

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has joined with other health bodies in an open letter calling on countries across the globe "to recognise and utilise self-care as an approach to strengthen health systems".

The letter to the United Nations notes that self-care supports the achievement of all eight key recommendations identified in the UN's Universal Health Care (UHC) 2030 Action Agenda "and should be mainstreamed within UHC frameworks and activities at global and national levels".

UN member states are being urged to acknowledge the value of self-care in the political declaration which will follow an upcoming high-level meeting on UHC in Sep.

FIP has launched a dedicated new online microsite with a range of resources to help boost the profile of self-care, noting that health literacy is a "foundational prerequisite to responsible self-care".

Pharmacists can play an important



role in facilitating effective self-care, FIP said, with the accessibility and trust placed in the profession enabling them to "translate quality, evidence-based information into sound, unbiased advice on self-care products and strategies".

"In addition, pharmacists provide patients with comprehensive advice, which may include, but is

not limited to, diet, exercise and other lifestyle changes."

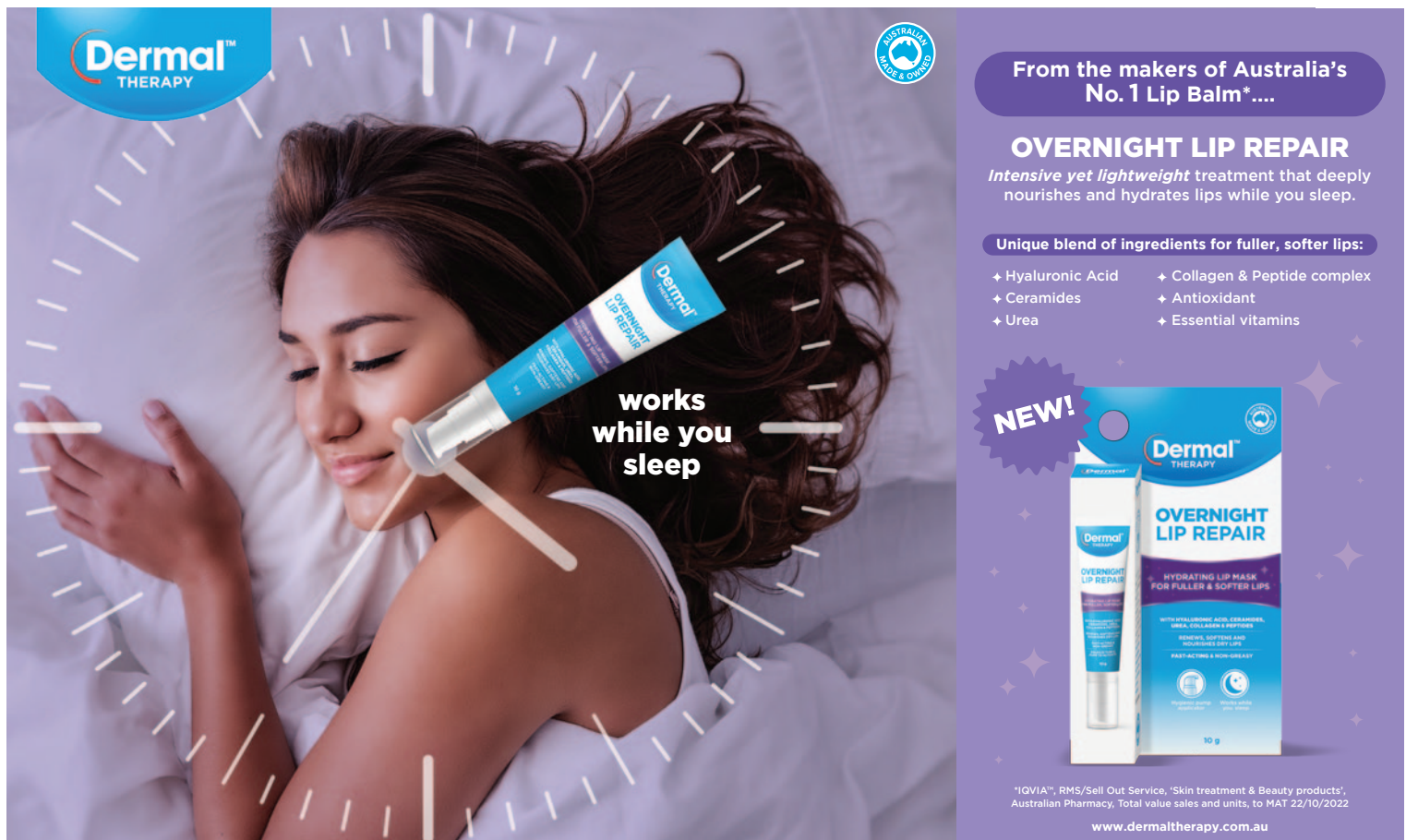
FIP added that pharmacists also support the rational selection, administration and responsible use of self-care products, alongside individual counselling, support and follow-up for safety and efficacy.

The letter to the UN highlights a range of self-care benefits including its particular importance for vulnerable populations.

"Effective practice of self-care creates a stronger and more efficient health system, making good use of limited resources and alleviating pressure on healthcare workers by freeing them up for the most critical tasks," the letter noted.

"Yet, self-care is an under-recognised and underutilised approach to health system strengthening," it added.

Almost 90 organisations from across the globe have joined the push by adding their names as signatories to the letter, with more details online [HERE](#).



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Backs sugar tax

NEW research shows more than 500,000 cavities may be prevented over 10 years if a sugar tax was introduced, provides yet another reason the peak doctor's group says, for the Federal Gov't to introduce its proposed sugar tax.

The Monash University-led collaboration with Deakin University and the University of Melbourne provides new Australian data, **HERE**.

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) President Prof Steve Robson said there is now more impetus for the govt to adopt a sugar tax which improves health outcomes and raises revenue.

"This important research deepens our understanding of the impact of sugary drinks on dental health.

"The AMA's own research shows that adding just 16 cents to the price of a can of soft drink results in thousands of fewer cases of diabetes (-16,000), heart disease (-4,400) and stroke (-1,100) over 25 years but we now additionally know 500,000 dental cavities and their costs could be avoided over a decade with cost-savings of \$63.5 million.

"I keep saying it's a no-brainer, and that's because a sugar tax would generate \$2.8 billion over four years for the Australian economy which can be directed into preventative health measures."

S4D regulatory reminder

THE Pharmacy Guild has put out a regulatory reminder for Schedule 4D drug requirements explaining a scenario on what pharmacists should do in case 'a patient has been presenting prescriptions for Schedule 4D drugs from several different doctors from different practices'.

The Guild states that pharmacists should contact each prescriber and inform them of the situation.

"Enquire whether, considering this information, the prescriber deems it safe and appropriate to continue to have the prescription dispensed.

"It is recommended that the pharmacist document these conversations with prescribers and any resulting outcomes.

"Benzodiazepines and anabolic steroids are often diverted for illicit supply on the street."

Furthermore, the Guild adds there may be significant clinical complications for patients taking high doses of benzodiazepines such as alprazolam or clonazepam in combination with other prescribed medications such as methadone or other opiates.

Prescribers may be referred to the Pharmaceutical Services website or encouraged to contact a Senior Pharmaceutical Officer at the Pharmaceutical Regulatory Unit to discuss the matter further.

Prescribers can also be referred to Medicare Australia's Prescription Shopping Program website for information about the release of all PBS or MBS patient claims



information, the Guild explained.

"Pharmacists are reminded that they may only supply restricted substances in an appropriate quantity and for a purpose that accords with the recognised therapeutic standard of what is appropriate in the circumstances (see clause 54 of the *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008*).

"The effect of this is that the quantity and frequency of dispensing must correspond with the dosages indicated on the prescription and that these dosages and quantities are appropriate in the circumstances.

"If you continue to have concerns about a particular patient or the practice of a particular prescriber, contact the Duty Pharmaceutical Officer at the Pharmaceutical Regulatory Unit during business hours on (02) 9391 9944 for further advice," the Guild concluded.

Biomarkers test

UNIVERSITY of South Australia (UniSA) researchers have identified three new biomarkers for prostate cancer to help identify and differentiate aggressive cases of the disease, which kills more than 300,000 men each year.

An international team of scientists led by UniSA Prof of Molecular Medicine Doug Brooks said, "the biomarkers are remarkably sensitive and specific in accurately visualising the progress of the cancer and confirming its grade.

"In collaboration with Envision Sciences, this research has led to the development of a test which can determine how advanced & aggressive the cancer is, and whether immediate treatment is needed," shared Brooks.



PDL

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\$500k grant won

CURRENT research into "chemobrain" hopes to influence the development of treatments to reduce the impact of cancer therapy on the brain.

A grant of nearly \$500,000 has been awarded to UNSW Sydney scientist Dr Caitlin Cowan, to investigate how the relationship between gut and brain health is impacted by chemotherapy, in young adults with cancer.

PDL opens student grants applications

APPLICATIONS are open for the Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL) 2023 Student Grant Program until the end of Aug, via its member portal.

The grants program was established in 2020 to help Australian pharmacy students attend a conference or event of their choosing, to further their interest in the wider profession.

The funds contribute to event registration, travel and accommodation expenses up to the value of \$5,000 per grant.

With the return of events after COVID-19 disruptions, PDL CEO David Brown encourages pharmacy students to explore the wide range of events to attend in Australia and overseas.

"We have been able to sponsor students to attend a variety of events across Australia including the Australian Pharmacy Professionals Conference, Medicines Management Conference and the annual

PSA event, as well as recently supporting one of our original winners to attend a conference in Portugal," Brown said.

"The Grants program is another way PDL can contribute to the pharmacy profession as students can experience high-quality education from world-renowned speakers and connect with inspiring leaders."

The 2022 winner Sanam Fath Abadi recommends students apply for a grant because of the unique experiences they offer.

"Thanks to PDL's Student Grant Program, I was able to explore my passion for hospital pharmacy at the SHPA Medicines Management Conference in Brisbane," Abadi said.

"I got to network with many amazing hospital pharmacists, & developed new clinical skills from all the talks they were giving, and I even had the chance to present a poster on some research I had conducted that year."

Tornado hits Pfizer plant

Pfizer stated that over 30 drugs, including fentanyl injections and anaesthetic lidocaine, may see supply disruption after a tornado destroyed a warehouse at its Rocky Mount, North Carolina, plant last week, *Yahoo News* has reported.

The company sent a letter late last week to its US hospital customers saying it had identified around 64 different formulations or dosages of those more than 30 drugs that were produced at the plant, that may experience continued or new supply disruptions.

The company has placed limits on how much supply of those drugs its customers can buy.

It said the list was "based on Pfizer market share and inventory levels of less than three months across our Pfizer distribution centers and the wholesale chain".

"The tornado that struck the site destroyed the warehouse, but production facilities there don't seem to have suffered major damage," said CEO Albert Bourla.



The Rocky Mount plant is one of the largest factories for sterile injectable medicines in the world.

Nearly 25% of Pfizer's sterile injectables used in US hospitals are produced there, according to the company's website.

Michael Ganio, Senior Director of Pharmacy Practice and Quality for the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, said many of the drugs on Pfizer's list are already facing shortages.

"It's very likely hospitals and health systems have already begun managing those shortages or have strategies in place to manage them," he said.

"So hopefully, there will be minimal impact."



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- Mon 28 Aug:** Full-day conference sessions with inspiring keynote sessions
- Tue 29 Aug:** Full-day brand streams - Chemist Discount Centre, Pharmacy Alliance/Alliance Pharmacy, Advantage Pharmacy, Pharmacy Catalyst; plus Gala and Awards Dinner
- Wed 30 Aug:** Half-day conference leadership, budgeting, planning, developing a high performing team



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Dennis Bastas
Chairman & CEO
Arrotex



Sonia McDonald
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Dispensary Corner

NEW research shows AI can ask another AI for a second opinion on medical scans.

"One part of the AI system tries to mimic how radiologists read medical images by labelling them, while the other AI part judges the quality of the AI-generated labelled scans by benchmarking them against the limited labelled scans provided by radiologists," said PhD candidate Himashi Peiris, Faculty of Engineering, Monash University.

Peiris added the research design set out to create a competition between the two components of a "dual-view" AI system.

"The traditional method for scans relies on the interpretation of individuals, which is time-consuming and prone to errors and extended waiting for patients seeking treatments."

The algorithm developed by the Monash researchers allows multiple AI models to leverage the unique advantages of labelled and unlabelled data, and learn from each other's predictions to help improve overall accuracy.

"Across the three publicly accessible medical datasets, utilising a 10% labelled data setting, we achieved an average improvement of 3% compared to the most recent state-of-the-art approach under identical conditions," said Peiris.

"Our algorithm has produced groundbreaking results in semi-supervised learning, enabling AI models to make more informed decisions, validate their initial assessments, and uncover more accurate diagnoses and treatment decisions."

Sprout grows its international markets

SPROUT Organic, an Australian vegan and organic infant formula company, has announced the launch of a new campaign in collaboration with the crowdfunding platform, Birchal.

Sprout's crowdfunding campaign will primarily be used to expand its international growth, "solidifying its position as a first-to-market brand with a unique point of difference".

"We are thrilled to embark on this crowdfunding campaign with Birchal and our passionate community of supporters," said CEO Selasi Berdie (pictured).

"This milestone is a testament to the incredible growth we've achieved over the years, from our humble beginnings during COVID-19 to now reaching families across the globe.

"Together, we can continue



our mission to provide children and their families with access to nourishing plant-based food products, promoting a healthier and happier future for all."

Berdie added that Sprout

Organic's point of difference was that it has eliminated, two of the nine most common allergens, dairy and soy from its products.

Created in a tiny room within a shared Gold Coast office, today the company has a 1,100sqm office and a busy dispatching warehouse with national distribution across 2,000+ stores in under 24 months of trading, including pharmacy chains such as Chemist Warehouse and TerryWhite Chemmart.

Sprout products are sold in over 50 countries with partnerships in Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates, "underscoring its mission to provide clean, plant-based, and sustainable nutrition worldwide".

Last year, Sprout Organic's plant-based infant formula won the 'Best Children's Product' at the World Food Innovation awards in Europe.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

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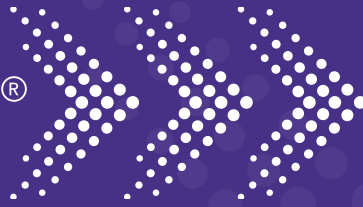
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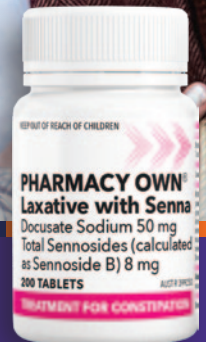
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