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Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, including our Beauty & Wellness feature, plus a full page from Pharmacy Own.

Closing loophole

THE British government said on Tue it will close a loophole that lets retailers give free samples of vapes to children in a clampdown on e-cigarettes, whose colourful designs and fruity flavours make them stand out on grocery store shelves

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said, "I am deeply concerned and shocked by reports of illicit vapes containing lead getting into the hands of school children".

The government said it would also review the rules on issuing penalty fines to shops selling vapes to under 18s.

THE Senate's Community Affairs Committee held hearings recently to discuss the Budget measures impacting the pharmacy profession, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has reported.

Thu 8th June 2023

During the hearings, the committee questioned officials from the Department of Health regarding various policy measures, including the proposed 60day dispensing, on-site aged care pharmacist program, and community pharmacy reinvestment.

National President Fei Sim explained that in relation to 60-day dispensing, the Dept has confirmed a substantial component of the "reinvestment" in community pharmacy will be used to top-up budgeted funds for professional services within the 7CPA.

The Dept recognised there may be an increase in medicines wastage, but has described the "likely impact as small in the context of the scale of the PBS and that they intend to



monitor this via the RUM program". Sim shared that in response to questions from ACT independent Senator David Pocock, the Dept described some of the remuneration and transition arrangements for the opioid dependence program, whereby patients will pay a PBS co-payment for the medicine (ie, methadone or buprenorphine), but be subject to no additional charges.

Like other S100 HSD medicines, community pharmacies will be paid a markup, dispensing fee, and Dangerous Drug fee for the dispensing of this item.

A staged supply fee of \$5.66 (including a \$0.97 consumables allowance) will also be provided for each dose provided by a pharmacist.

The Dept is exploring transition arrangements both for existing prescriptions to be used for a period following the program's start date, and for the availability of OTP medicines for private clinics, but reaffirmed the policy intention is to reduce out-of-pocket patient costs.

On other measures discussed the Dept Deputy Secretary Penny Shakespeare provided the committee with an update on preparation for the scope of practice review.

The Dept is currently preparing the Terms of Reference for the review which will take 12-18 months to complete.

Further, in response to questions regarding vaping reforms, Dept Secretary Brendan Murphy indicated that non-prescription supply of nicotine vapes for smoking cessation by pharmacists is a policy option the TGA is considering, Sim concluded.





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Kids' BP checks

PRIMARY school students' blood pressure will be checked in the classroom under a pilot program to help lower the risk of stroke and heart disease in adulthood.

The Murdoch Children's Research Institute study, involving Christ Church Grammar School in South Yarra, Vic, aims to address the silent precursors of heart problems such as high blood pressure and thickening of the arteries that begin to form in the early years.

The Healthy Hearts @ School Study will involve Grade 3-6 students, with parental/carer consent, having their blood pressure checked at school.

The families of those students who record a high blood pressure reading will receive a letter to give to their GP who can then refer them to The Royal Children's Hospital or their local paediatrician for specialist follow-up.

The research team will also run a heart health education session at the school, which will cover how the heart and arteries work, what blood pressure is and strategies for good heart health such as regular exercise, a healthy diet and getting the recommended amount of sleep.

A second round of blood pressure measurements will also be taken in a subset of children involved in the initial screening via a 24-hour blood pressure monitor.

Sigma's new Hobart site

SIGMA Healthcare as part of the construction of a new greenfield facility in Hobart has partnered with The Config Team, an established SAP supply chain specialist.

With nine distribution centres in Australia, supplying over 1,200 regional pharmacies, Sigma has strived to ensure a continuous supply of medicines to customers for more than 30 years.

However, following a recent project to roll out SAP work across its estate, the company had outgrown capacity at the existing site in Hobart and embarked on a project to construct a new greenfield facility to increase capacity at this location.

Sigma's collaboration with The Config Team, with its proven expertise in delivering SAP Extended Warehouse Management (EWM) projects, will see the introduction of a conveyor at the new Hobart site, with automations and integrations to streamline the picking and packing process, which had previously been a manual paper-based process.

Consultants were able to configure a direct Material Flow System integration into SAP for EWM on software S/4HANA, which introduced scanning capabilities, while eliminating the need for middleware.

Working closely with Sigma's internal teams, The Config Team also developed a custom application in SAP Fiori, which automatically scans picked tote boxes during quality control. When totes reach the end of the



conveyor, if the order is correct, it will be highlighted green on a screen and moved through to be shipped, whereas incomplete orders are highlighted red with a note detailing the detected error, enabling quick resolution, and combating delivery disruptions.

Sigma is now benefitting from seamless integration at its Hobart site, as Diane Matheson, Head of Supply Chain Technology at Sigma, explains, "this is the first site that we have not used a third party to integrate our automation equipment with SAP, so having this direct integration has improved efficiencies at Hobart, which has allowed a greater capacity to flow through the process".

"Reducing human inputs and utilising scanning for pick verifications has also increased our pick accuracy for a more streamlined operation."

Following the successful go-live at Hobart, Sigma and The Config Team will scope out future S/4HANA roll outs throughout 2023 and beyond.

Maltreated in care

A NEW report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reveals that claims of maltreatment by 45,500 kids in the Aussie care system in 2021-22 were substantiated - meaning there is reasonable cause to believe the child has been, is being, or is likely to be maltreated.

The latest (AIHW) report, *Child protection Australia* 2021-22 Insights, presents information on children aged 0-17 years who have come into contact with the child protection system.

Around 101,000 children made claims, 45% of which were substantiated while 55% were not, the report has found.

Emotional abuse (57%) was the most common type of substantiated maltreatment, followed by neglect (21%).

The report found around 178,000 children came into contact with the child protection system in 2021-22, a decrease from 179,000 in 2020-21, while the rate of children in out-of-home care has remained stable at around 8 per 1,000 children between 30 Jun 2018 and 30 Jun 2022.

Over the next 12 months, the AIHW has stated it will be releasing quarterly updates to include content specifically focusing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system, the safety of children in care and pathways from out-ofhome care.

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Editor's Choice: Skin-first approach to a youthful glow

KOREAN beauty has been instrumental in changing the focus from using makeup to create the impression of glowing skin, to a 'skin first' approach.

The country's aesthetic skincare brand, AHC's Youth Focus Collection, features next-gen Pro Retinal 11X and a retinal delivery system, formulated by aestheticians, to assist in delivering a youthful glow.

The collection consists of AHC Youth Focus Toner (130ml, RRP: \$69), which has an airy texture that may leave skin feeling clean, fresh, and ready for the next skincare step.

The AHC Youth Focus Emulsion (130ml, RRP: \$69),

Puffy eyes be gone!

ANTIPODES Anoint H₂O De-Puffing Eye Gel features seven bioactive ingredients to help reduce puffiness, freshen under eyes, and protect against everyday pollutants.

Coffee and red algae join cucumber and antioxidant-rich New Zealand superfruits to target puffy eyes.

Plant hyaluronic acid and manuka honey provide soothing hydration, while bamboo soothes and

protects.

ANTIPODES Anoint H,0 De-Puffing Eye Gel GelAnti-Poches Yeux H,0 MazzaLAND C30ml 10Rex is a lightweight, milky retinol emulsion that aims to help skin feel soft and hydrated.

The AHC Youth Focus Essence (30ml, RRP: \$79) is an anti-ageing blend that aims to tighten skin and reduce the signs of ageing such as fine lines.

Due to a high retinol content, it's advised to use at night.

The AHC Youth Focus Cream (50ml, RRP: \$89) is a milky, nutrient-rich gel cream that works on improving moisture retention, and elasticity, while reducing wrinkles.

The products also contain soothing *centella asiatica* extract and *ficus carica* (fig) fruit extract for healthier-looking skin.



Get glazed with this vegan lip and cheek duo

AUSTRALIS' Glazed Collection has new Lip and Blush Glazes that are vegan friendly, cruelty free and Australian owned.

The lip and cheek range comes with four glossy, hydrating lip shades that have a fruity scent.

The two "highlighting, colour-changing blush glaze shades are designed to adjust to individual skin tones," says Australis. All the glazes are

infused with skin-loving ingredients such as peptides, hyaluronic acid, and jojoba oil. The range is exclusively available in Priceline.



Estèe's powerhouse



ESTÉE Lauder has recently announced that Dutch supermodel and activist, Imaan Hammam, is now its newest Global Brand Ambassador.

Her first campaign debuts in Jul. "I am so honoured to be part of the Estée Lauder family.

"They have such a rich heritage and some of the most iconic beauty products, but I am most proud to be part of a brand that champions women's advancement around the world," said Hammam.

Justin Boxford, Estée Lauder Global Brand President commented, "it's her passion and dedication to advocating for young women everywhere that deeply connects to our brand's core values, and will help us continue to inspire our consumers globally".

Hammam joins Estée Lauder for its campaigns along with the brand's other well-known beauty ambassadors like Ana De Armas, Karlie Kloss, and Yang Mi.

She is also a global ambassador for a non-profit called 'She's the First' and was named its 2021 'Powerhouse of the Year'.

Being recognised for her role as an activist, Hammam was also presented one of *Bazaar's* Woman of the Year awards in 2020.

Beauty

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Dispensary Corner

Rharmacy

NO WONDER New Yorkers have a reputation for being angry - all those skyscrapers could be stressing them out.

New research from Bond University in Australia has found concrete jungles make our hearts beat faster, while quiet streets can boost creativity.

The study by Assistant Professor of Psychology Oliver Baumann and Briana Brooks-Cedergvist measured people's physical reactions to urban environments by tracking their heart rate and brain frequency.

They used portable heart monitors and EEGs to track the responses of the same people in two different locations on the Gold Coast, known for its towering beachside skyscrapers.

Combined with a questionnaire about how participants felt in each location, Dr Baumann found they felt significantly more stressed in higher-density areas.

"There are a couple of possible explanations for this," Dr Baumann said.

"In more closely built or condensed areas, people can perceive them as more dangerous because there is less open space and more traffic, which can increase their vigilance and fear response.

"In a more open area, these feelings are reduced, and that's what we saw in the brain activity measures."



NEW research funded by the Heart Foundation aims to boost surgery success rates for lifethreatening heart rhythm disorders (arrhythmias), leading to fewer Australians needing defibrillators installed in their chests.

During this World Heart Rhythm Week (05-11 Jun) the focus is on arrhythmias, a life-threatening condition where the heart beats slowly or rapidly.

The causes are varied and procedures (known as 'catheter ablation') are not always successful when scarring is too deep to be reached and treated.

A new study being led by Heart Foundation-funded researcher Dr Pierre Qian (University of Sydney) is aiming to change that.

"A number of arrhythmias commonly occur due to scar tissue

Deters diabetes

THE humble sea cucumber is proving to be a key ingredient in preventing diabetes, according to new research from the University of South Australia.

Exploring the medicinal properties of sea cucumbers (Holothuria scabra), researchers found that processed dried sea cucumber with salt extracts can inhibit a compound, Advanced Glycation End (AGE), that is associated with increased risk of diabetes, thereby reducing the likelihood of the disease. Lead researcher, UniSA's Dr

Permal Deo, says his research tries to understand how the bioactive compounds in sea cucumbers can inhibit AGEs. Learn more HERE.



Pharmacy

<mark>,</mark> Daily

formed after a heart attack, which has abnormal properties that can lead to recurring arrhythmias," Oian said.

"Depending on the type of arrhythmia, medications may not always be most suitable, with many patients at high risk receiving an implanted cardiac defibrillator (ICD) which shocks their heart back into a normal rhythm, to prevent sudden death.

"While this saves lives, it commits

a growing number of some arrhythmia patients to painful and traumatising defibrillator shocks," Oian said.

As opposed to treating irregular heartbeats with an ICD (where patients can be shocked over and over again), used in the right people, catheter ablation is minimally invasive - and hopefully a one-off procedure where heart scar tissue causing arrhythmias is treated with electrical cautery.

"This procedure uses heat from an electric current to destrov abnormal tissue, however many scars are too deep, which leads to arrhythmias recurring after the surgery.

"I hope my research will lead to improved techniques and outcomes that cure arrhythmias," Dr Qian concluded.

keep dreaming...





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