



**NEW** **Ferro-Max C™**  
with Vitamin C to aid absorption.\*  
Available from Symbion, Sigma, API and CH2.

For use when iron deficiency or iron deficiency anaemia has been diagnosed by your doctor and a therapeutic iron supplement is recommended. Always read the label and follow the directions for use. If symptoms persist, worsen or change unexpectedly, talk to your health professional. \*Vitamin C has been shown to enhance the absorption of iron when taken together.



## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus the **September MIMS Update**.

## New endo clinics

ADELAIDE and Western Sydney patients will be able to access multidisciplinary care with two new Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinics opening.

The Australia-first clinics will provide more women with specialised care they need with the number of clinics increasing from 20 to 22.

Endometriosis affects at least one in nine Australian women with a devastating impact on their daily lives.

Sufferers wait on average seven years before diagnosis.

The clinics will also raise awareness of endometriosis and pelvic pain, build professional knowledge & skills, and improve care pathways.

# CAPS makes more demands at rally

**AROUND** 2,800 people travelled across the country to protest against the 60-Day Dispensing (60DD) policy at a rally in Canberra on 04 Sep, held by the Community and Pharmacy Support Group (CAPS).

Several high-ranking politicians attended the rally and spoke to the crowd including the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Sussan Ley and the Shadow Minister for Health Anne Ruston, Leader of the Nationals David Littleproud and Senator Bridget McKenzie.

CAPS organiser and spokesperson Emil Demyane read out a letter the group had sent to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese with a list of demands including equitable and affordable access to PBS medicines for all patients, not just some.

The demands include lowering the co-payment from \$7.30 to \$3.65 for Concession card holders and \$30 down to \$15 for General Patients.

CAPS has also asked that the 60DD policy be paused immediately, while it is still in its

infancy, or that the dispensary remuneration be doubled for 60DD prescriptions, while it is negotiated as part of the 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA).

The letter also stated that the Minister of Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, should stand down immediately, adding "he has mishandled the 60DD policy, broken the 7CPA and his pre-election commitments to the pharmacy profession".

The demands continued with asking for 'Same Service, Same Pay'.

That means services included in the 8CPA should be funded the same as any other profession providing them, for example vaccinations should be funded just as they are in general practice, CAPS asserted.

Further, opioid treatment payments should be doubled.

All funds that are currently being allocated to Aged Care facilities for the packing of medications into Dose Administration Aids, should

be funded to pharmacies in the 8CPA, as part of an Aged Care Dose Administration Aids program, the CAPS letter added.

Pharmacists should also have representation on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee, to ensure advice that affects distribution of medication has the required expertise on the panel.

Lastly, CAPS stated pharmacists should be allowed clinical judgment to alter the quantity of 60-day prescriptions for patient safety.

Demyane reinforced that CAPS is not associated with any industry body, while CAPS spokesperson Christine Kelly said, "we want the gov't to actually listen to us".

"We want them to commit to the pre-election promise that no pharmacy or patient would be worse off under these new measures, as far as I am concerned, this is a gov't of broken promises."

On disrupting Question Time Kelly said, "we are very peaceful and professional, that's all it's about." JG

SFI HEALTH | FLQRDIS™

# Recurrent Cystitis? Stop it before it starts with Ellura®

Only Ellura® contains 36mg PACs, clinically researched to reduce occurrence of medically diagnosed cystitis and support urinary tract health.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Always read the label and follow the directions for use.  
Bianco L et al., *J Am Geriatr Soc* 2012; 60:1180-1.



### Hospital report

**OVERNIGHT** patients admitted to NSW public hospitals spent 6.3 days in hospital on average, 12.5% longer than 5.6 days in Apr to Jun 2019 prior to the pandemic, following a notable increase in mid-2021, a new government report showed.

The Bureau of Health Information has today released its latest *Healthcare Quarterly* report, **HERE**, showing activity and performance for public health services in NSW from Apr to Jun.

The report found that there were 60,499 elective or planned surgeries, 12.6% more than the same quarter last year.

Almost 80% of all elective surgeries were performed on time, up from 74.7% a year ago.

The number of patients waiting longer than recommended dropped to 9,142 less than half the record 18,748 a year ago.

## Industry updates affecting the future

**MORE** than 1,300 pharmacy owners, pharmacists, pharmacy assistants, students and industry representatives gathered at the Pharmacy Connect conference in Sydney last week, to discuss the future of pharmacy and to embrace the conference theme 'Make every connection matter'.

The Pharmacy Connect conference was officially opened by NSW Premier Chris Minns at Thu evening's Welcome Reception.

Minns used the opportunity to formally announce the NSW Government's commitment to implementing a Full Scope of Practice Pilot, mirroring the Queensland Government's North Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot.

This was followed by Fri morning's announcement by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's National President, Trent Twomey, that the 8CPA negotiations will commence on 01 Mar 2024 (**PD** 05 Sep).

Twomey also discussed the



current and future challenges and opportunities for community pharmacy, including full scope of practice and 60-Day Dispensing.

He also provided a strategic overview of the profession's need to plan for the future and make adjustments to ensure the viability of pharmacy jobs.

Hosted by the Pharmacy Guild's NSW Branch, this year's Pharmacy Connect combined with the Pharmacy Assistant National

Conference provided timely updates and education for pharmacists and pharmacy assistants.

The combined events shared a 55-plus stand trade exhibition with hundreds of delegates making their way through the exhibition to speak with suppliers and exhibitors.

One of the highlights of the event was the announcement of the national winner of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year (PATY) award at the cocktail function on Fri evening.

With eight state and territory finalists all vying for the prestigious award, it was Colby Diek from Craignish Pharmacy, Qld, who took out the PATY award.

Diek was awarded \$5,000 cash prize plus flights, travel and accommodation packages to attend Guild conferences to support her professional development.

Next year's Pharmacy Connect conference will be held between 05-07 Sep 2024 in Sydney. *JG*



## CommBank Pharmacy Insights

In partnership with UTS and IQVIA

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## Dispensary Corner

**EXERCISING** and playing sport is better for the Australian economy than safely lying around on the couch - even when you take into account the cost of treating injuries incurred during physical activity.

That is according to a new report, *Economics of sport and physical activity participation and injury*, by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) which confirmed the reassuring statistics, saying "Australians saved the health system more than \$320 million in a single year by participating in sport and other forms of physical activity".

The report showed that while there are costs to the health system from treating sport and other exercise-related injuries, "this is outweighed by savings from benefits such as lower blood pressure, stronger bones and improved mental health".

AIHW spokesperson Dr Heather Swanston estimated that physical inactivity accounted for around \$2.4 billion in health spending in 2018-19, the year under study.

But "the cost to the health system would have been \$1.7 billion higher without the health benefits from current levels of physical activity, including sport, undertaken in Australia".

Injury treatment cost about \$1.2b, while \$149m was spent on osteoarthritis due injuries related to physical activity.

More spending could have been avoided through improved injury prevention and management physical activity.

## PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### From the maker's of Australia's number one lip balm\* ... Introducing the NEW Dermal Therapy Overnight Lip Repair

Dermal Therapy's Overnight Lip repair treatment is an intensive yet lightweight lip mask that works to deeply nourish, renew, and hydrate lips with visible results in 8 hours. Formulated with a unique blend of over 30 clinically proven industry leading ingredients, this fast-acting and non-greasy Overnight Lip Repair not only restores lip moisture but repairs the lip's natural barrier, gives lips a subtle plumping effect and gently exfoliates dead skin cells.

Contains industry leading ingredients: Hyaluronic Acid, Ceramide complex, Collagen & Peptide complex, Antioxidant and essential vitamins, and Urea.

**Stockist:** Please call 1300 555 597

**RRP:** \$11.99

**Website:** Click [HERE](#) for more information.



### Revive Tears - now PBS listed



Revive Tears lubricant eye drops provide long lasting and soothing relief against burning, irritation and discomfort due to dry eye.

Moisturises, comforts and refreshes dry, tired and strained eyes. Revive Tears helps lubricate, hydrate & protect dry eyes.

Suitable for use with contact lenses.  
Contains hypromellose 3mg/g.

**Supplier:** Available from Symbion, Sigma & API.

**RRP:** \$4.32 (available in 10ml packs)

**Website:** Click [HERE](#) for more information.

## New Indications

- **Dapagliflozin (propanediol monohydrate) (Forxiga)** is now indicated in adults for the treatment of symptomatic heart failure independent of left ventricular ejection fraction, as an adjunct to standard of care therapy.
- **Dupilumab (Dupixent)** is now indicated for the treatment of severe atopic dermatitis in patients aged 6 months to 11 years old who are candidates for chronic systemic therapy.
- **Ferric carboxymaltose (Ferinject)** is now indicated for treatment of iron deficiency anaemia in children aged 1 to 13 years when oral iron preparations are ineffective or cannot be used.
- **Finerenone (Kerendia)** is now indicated to reduce the risk of cardiovascular mortality and morbidity in adults with chronic kidney disease (with albuminuria) associated with Type 2 diabetes, in addition to standard of care.
- **Influenza virus vaccine, surface antigen, quadrivalent (inactivated) (Flucelvax Quad)** is now indicated for use in children from 6 months of age and older for the prevention of influenza caused by influenza virus types A and B contained in the vaccine.
- **Upadacitinib (Rinvoq)** is now indicated for the treatment of adult patients with moderately to severely active Crohn's disease, who have had an inadequate response, lost response or were intolerant to either conventional therapy or a biological medicine.
- **Sacituzumab govitecan (Trodelvy)** is now indicated for the treatment of adult patients with unresectable locally advanced or metastatic hormone receptor (HR)-positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)- negative (IHC 0, IHC 1+ or IHC 2+/ISH-) breast cancer who have received endocrine-based therapy (including a CDK4/6 inhibitor) and at least two additional systemic therapies in the locally advanced or metastatic setting.

## New Contraindications

- **Ravulizumab (Ultomiris 100 mg/mL)** is now contraindicated in patients who are not currently vaccinated against *Neisseria meningitidis*, unless they receive prophylactic treatment with appropriate antibiotics until 2 weeks after vaccination.

*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.*