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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Dermal Therapy
- Glucojel

Minimise scars

DERMAL Therapy's new scar treatment gel and patches help soften and flatten scars.

Containing medical grade silicone, the treatment works on both old and new scars.

See more on [page five](#).

Glucojel glucojoy

GLUCOJEL is running a major campaign for a \$10,000 giveaway, so stock your shelves with the popular product to attract more customers in-store – more details on [p6](#).

Careers podcast

THE latest episode of the Raven's Recruitment *Your Pharmacy Career Podcast* features James Buckley, a passionate pharmacy partner and manager at LiveLife Pharmacy in Port Douglas, Qld.

Buckley discusses the vibrant and diverse environment of community pharmacy, and how his passion for patient care and community health has driven him to create a dynamic and supportive healthcare space.

Other themes include the unique challenges and opportunities of practicing in a tourist destination and the impact of expanded scope of practice on his daily work.

Listen to the podcast [HERE](#).

Doug Hoey returns to APP

APP Conference Convenor Kos Sclavos announced that Doug Hoey, President of the World Pharmacy Council and CEO of the National Community Pharmacists Association (USA), will return as a featured speaker for APP2025.

He will headline the plenary session 'The World Community Pharmacy Scene: Why are Some Global Giants Failing - What is the Key to Success?', which will be held on Thursday 20 Mar at 11:00am.

This keynote session will explore how community pharmacies can resist the commoditisation of prescription medicines by delivering superior patient care, quality use of medicines information, and systems to improve medication compliance.

Hoey will share evidence of why some global pharmacy giants are struggling and discuss the key drivers of success in a rapidly changing health care landscape.

"We are delighted to welcome Doug back to Australia and to APP," Sclavos said.

"His extensive experience in advocating for community pharmacy and his insights into global pharmacy issues make his sessions highly anticipated once again this year."

This plenary session will include opening remarks by Dennis Bastas,



Executive Chairman and CEO of Arrotex/VidaCorp.

"Doug's leadership on a global stage provides crucial insights into the challenges and opportunities facing community pharmacy," Bastas said.

"His keynote will highlight why independent pharmacies are uniquely positioned to thrive by focusing on patient care and professional services."

Other keynote speakers include former tennis star Jelena Dokic sharing her experiences of resilience, and Dr Ben Bravery, a zoologist and patient advocate.

The Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition will take place 20-22 Mar 2025 on the Gold Coast. *KB*

Industry tribute to Greg Hodgson

ESTEEMED pharmacist Greg Hodgson has been farewelled and celebrated for a life of service to the pharmaceutical industry and his love of cricket.

Friends and family gathered to mark a litany of Hodgson's major achievements including as a founding member of the Community and Pharmacy Support Group (CAPS), which campaigned for conditions to boost community pharmacy.

The organisation, which began in co-founder Jim Jackson's lounge room, grew into a national organisation of pharmacists and remains a powerful force today.

Three decades of ownership of Hodgson's Pharmacy in the Sydney suburb of Artarmon were also celebrated as a key contribution to the community, along with chairing the local Chamber of Commerce.

Hodgson's personal passion for cricket was also cherished, particularly his role as a driving force behind the formation of Pharmacy Cricket for Australia.

This involvement in the game was said to have inspired a new generation of pharmacists to join the profession.

Hodgson is survived by his son, two grandsons and three great grandsons.



Sigma shareholder meeting date set

SIGMA has advised that the Scheme Meeting, at which Chemist Warehouse shareholders will vote on the proposed acquisition by Sigma of 100% of Chemist Warehouse shares (*PD* 12 Dec), is expected to take place on 29 Jan.

Notice of a general meeting for Sigma shareholders, who have to

approve a number of resolutions related to the merger, is expected to be released this week, along with a prospectus.

A Scheme Booklet has been registered with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission and will be emailed to Chemist Warehouse shareholders this week.



Needle-free epinephrine closer

NEEDLE-PHOBIC people with life-threatening allergies can look forward to an alternative epinephrine delivery method - a new nasal epinephrine spray called neffy.

It is indicated for allergic reactions to food, medications and insect bites that could lead to life-threatening anaphylaxis, and can be used by adults and children 30kg or more.

Found to be just as effective as autoinjector epinephrine, the nasal spray has the added benefit of greater stability at extreme temperatures - useful if left in the car, for example - and a longer shelf life.

Recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the US, an application for approval has now been lodged with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) by Australian licensee CSL Seqirus.

Eczema drug reprieve

THOUSANDS of Australians living with severe eczema will now continue to have access to Dupixent (dupilimab) at an affordable price, after the Federal Government acted to ensure the medication remains on the PBS.

The treatment has been on the PBS since 2021, but higher than expected prescription numbers meant that patients were at risk of the drug sponsor, Sanofi, withdrawing it from the PBS.

The move would have left the thousands of patients without effective treatment - or facing a bill of \$20,000 per year.

However, the Government announced on Saturday that it had reached an agreement with Sanofi and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) to secure the listing of Dupixent on the PBS.

This ensures the almost 20,000 patients taking the drug will pay a maximum of \$31.60 per script, or \$7.70 for concession card holders.

"Since it was first listed on the PBS in 2021, Dupixent has improved the quality of life for thousands of Australians with severe eczema," said Health Minister Mark Butler.

"The demand has been higher than expected, and we've worked hard to make sure that it remains affordable," Butler said.

"I'm pleased we can continue to deliver cheaper medicines for the thousands of Australians living with severe eczema."

Patients with severe eczema have frequent flaring of symptoms, and can suffer from itchy painful skin, bleeding, sleep deprivation, an increased risk of skin infections, depression and anxiety.

The monoclonal antibody is also indicated for asthma and chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyposis.

"Today's announcement is a win for the eczema community and all Australians who care about affordable access to the best medicines," said Melanie Funk, of Eczema Support Australia. *KB*

WA calls for free meningococcal vax

THE Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has called on the WA Government to fund a Meningococcal B vaccination program for children two years and under and adolescents aged 15 to 19.

It comes following the Meningitis Centre Australia's Meningococcal B Memory Tree event last week.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island infants and people at increased risk of invasive meningococcal B disease are eligible for free vaccination under the NIP, but for other people, self-funded vaccinations cost \$200 per shot, totalling \$600 for babies and \$400 for adolescents.

RACGP Vice President and WA Chair, Dr Ramya Raman, said, "making this vaccine free for kids and at-risk age groups will save lives".

Season's Greetings from Sigma Healthcare



Sigma Healthcare remains committed to supporting each and every pharmacy as a CSO wholesaler. We endeavour to maintain world-class standards of delivery in full and despatch on time across our network.

We know our pharmacy and supply partners work incredibly hard to service their communities, especially at this time of year, and we pay tribute to the pharmacy supply chain teams for their efforts. Thank you for your commitment to promoting positive health outcomes for all Australians and for your support.

From the team at Sigma, we wish you all a safe, healthy and happy festive season.

Visit our website
www.sigmahhealthcare.com.au



Govt LGBTIQ+ health plan applauded

THE Government launched a 10-year action plan to improve the health and wellbeing of the LGBTIQ+ community last week, a move applauded by peak health and medical bodies, including the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) and Australian Medical Association (AMA).

The *National Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ People 2025-2035* features five key focus areas, including strengthening preventative health and building health literacy; enhancing accessibility, availability and safety of health care services; and ensuring workforce capability and capacity across both mainstream and LGBTIQ+ led services.

The Government also announced a \$15.5 million investment into system-wide improvements that ensure LGBTIQ+ people can access safe, appropriate and stigma-free health and wellbeing care.

"We know that discrimination, stigma, and harassment, both

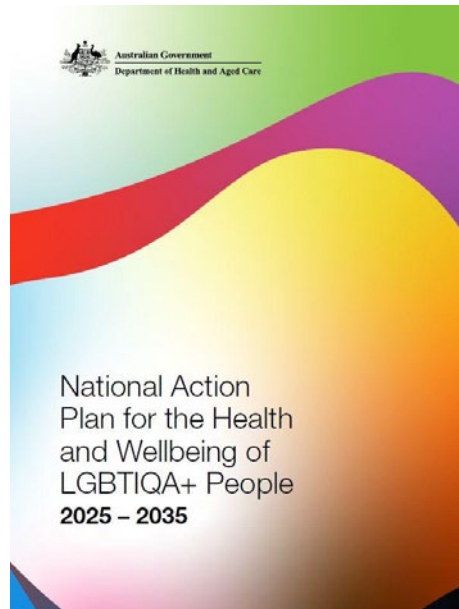
within and outside the health care system, lead to poorer health outcomes for LGBTIQ+ people compared to the wider community," explained PHAA CEO, Adjunct Professor Terry Slevin.

"The Action Plan is a welcome step by the Government to address these disparities and make safe, inclusive and high-quality health care available to all LGBTIQ+ people," Prof Slevin said.

AMA President Dr Danielle McMullen congratulated members of the LGBTIQ+ health sector for their work on the plan.

"People who are LGBTIQ+ thrive in healthcare environments where they feel safe, affirmed, respected and understood," Dr McMullen said.

"The principles of patient-centred



care, consent, non-discrimination, bodily autonomy, and respect are central to healthcare for people who are LGBTQIASB+," Dr McMullen said, adding that they "deserve nothing less". KB

Nuts linked with healthier ageing

DAILY nut consumption among older adults has been linked with a sustained healthy lifespan, with reduced risk of dementia or physical disabilities, a Monash University study has found.

The association was even stronger for those adults who had a less-than-optimal diet.

The study included almost 10,000 people aged 70 or older who were followed up for an average of four years.

The risk of disability, dementia or death was 23% lower among daily nut eaters vs infrequent or never eaters.

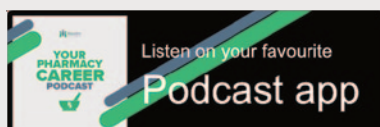
"Incorporating a serving of nuts or nut pastes or butters into your diet on a regular basis is straightforward advice to give, so we hope that this might be considered by primary care providers," said author Dr Alice Owen.



YOUR PHARMACY CAREER PODCAST

Dive into our latest podcast episode featuring **James Buckley** on Balancing Full Scope of Practice, Tourist Health and Day-to-Day Pharmacy Life in North Queensland.

James is a Partner and Manager, and is passionate about primary healthcare in the community.



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Dispensary Corner

A DOCTOR in the UK has revealed the 'perfect hangover sandwich' just in time for the silly season, which for many is a time of overindulgence.

So when you have a few too many egg-nogs or glasses of Christmas punch and wake up feeling less than jolly the next morning, fix yourself a bacon and egg roll - doctor's orders!

According to Dr Zoe Williams, who spoke to the *Daily Mail*, it's a bad idea to skip breakfast in the morning - even if you are feeling a bit queasy - in order to get your blood-sugar levels back up.

She advises making a sandwich with bread that's half wholemeal, half white in order to ensure you still get the protein and fibre of wholemeal bread, along with the easier digestion of white bread.

For filling, Dr Williams recommended the pretty delicious-sounding combo of bacon, egg and avocado.

While it's not a good idea to eat processed meat regularly, the bacon helps to replenish salts that are lost during a night of drinking.

Egg, the 'hero' ingredient, boosts a bunch of important nutrients including B12, protein, vitamins A and D, and also contains an amino acid called cysteine, which helps your body to break down acetaldehyde - the toxic byproduct of alcohol, Dr Williams explains.

To top off the sandwich, avocado offers a boost of healthy fats to help sustain energy throughout the day.

Say no more, we're sold!

ADHD inquiry response disappoints

"TOO little, too late", was paediatrician Dr Sally Poulton's succinct appraisal of last week's Federal Government response to the National ADHD Inquiry, which was held last year, with the Senate report handed down in Nov 2023.

The Government response saw it adopt only one of the 15 recommendations and provide in-principle support to nine others, while the last five were noted.

The adopted recommendation was to expedite the development of uniform prescribing rules to ensure consistency across state and territory jurisdictions through the ministerial council on health.

The recommendations with in-principle support included the need to consult with people with lived experience of ADHD, healthcare colleges and organisations to identify additional support measures; to review the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) to improve the safe and quality use of medications by people with ADHD; to expand the range of how GPs can provide ADHD assessment and support services; and to provide a review into the Medicare Benefits Schedule to improve accessibility to ADHD-related assessment, diagnosis and support services.

"The desperation of those who have missed out - and continue to miss out - on appropriate diagnosis and treatment for ADHD has been largely glossed over," said Dr Poulton, describing the struggles and grief experienced by people with ADHD who potentially missed out on treatment as they were growing up.

ADHD is estimated to affect around 5-6% of the population, with long-term physical and mental

health issues arising when people do not receive adequate diagnosis, treatment and support.

Professor David Coghill, President of the Australasian ADHD Professionals Association, described the government's response as a "slap in the face", and disrespectful to the more than 700 people who lodged submissions.

"After waiting for over a year for a response, it's incredible that there is just one recommendation that the Government feels is worthy of support," said Prof Coghill.

"The Government's woefully inadequate response contains a number of inaccuracies that demonstrate the Government's lack of understanding of ADHD and lack of knowledge about the clinicians and allied health practitioners who work in ADHD," he said.

Conversely, the Royal Australian College of GPs has welcomed the support for nationally consistent prescribing rules, and framed the in-principle support for GP involvement in a positive light.

"We strongly welcome the Government's support for a nationally consistent approach that helps adults and children with ADHD access appropriate and early support from their GP, including reducing regulatory barriers for prescribing stimulant medications," said RACGP President, Dr Michael Wright.

"Enabling GPs across Australia to better support people living with ADHD will increase access to assessment and treatment, improve the health and wellbeing of patients, as well as reduce wait times and costs, and ease pressure elsewhere in the health system," Dr Wright said.

"With new ADHD clinical guidelines from the Australasian ADHD Professionals Association, GPs have a comprehensive, evidence-based resource to assist diagnosis and management of ADHD - we can help improve access and reduce costs for patients and ease our stretched health system," he added. KB

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