





Pain grips millions in a 'vicious cycle'

Pharmacy Daily today
features three pages of the
latest pharmacy news, plus full
pages from:
Pointrs

Today's issue of PD

• Glucojel

Stretch out points

WITH over 3,000 hotels and flights to explore, Pointrs is offering pharmacists ways to save on travel by using cash, credit card and loyalty points. It also gives 3.5 times more

loyalty points than other providers - see **page four**.

Profit on a platter

DISCOVER how Glucojel's jelly beans can deliver "profit on a platter" to the pharmacies that stock them. The popular jelly beans are known to increase foot traffic in pharmacies - see **back page**. **CHRONIC** pain is "wreaking havoc" on the lives of millions of Australians, not just personally but economically and socially, revealed the 2024 National Pain Survey, involving nearly 2,600 individuals.

Coinciding with the launch of National Pain Week (22-28 Jul), the survey highlighted that this invisible condition affects 3.6 million Australians and burdens the entire community.

Nicolette Ellis, President of Chronic Pain Australia, said the survey revealed that chronic pain is a "vicious cycle wrecking havoc" for millions of Australians living with chronic pain.

She added pain is "huge drain on society" more generally.

"Chronic pain is taking far too long to diagnose, and multidisciplinary pain management, which offers the best hope for controlling this complex condition, remains largely inaccessible," stressed Ellis. Nearly half of the survey

respondents reported having to



stop working due to their pain, while almost 30% had to reduce their hours.

This is particularly concerning as 47% of respondents are in their prime earning years of 25 to 64 years old, the survey found.

The condition's strain extends beyond work, damaging personal relationships; two-thirds felt their pain strained family relationships, over 60% experienced reduced intimacy, and nearly half struggled with childcare activities.

The survey highlighted significant delays in diagnosis, with 45% of

respondents waiting over three years for it.

Women and non-binary individuals also faced similar diagnostic delays affecting nearly half of women and almost 60% of non-binary respondents.

Despite multidisciplinary care being the gold standard for treating chronic pain, only one in five respondents had access to such care programs.

Of those who did receive multidisciplinary care, 72% would recommend it.

Ellis emphasised the need for accessible multidisciplinary pain management programs.

"Without access to patientcentred, multidisciplinary care, people living with chronic pain are at risk of a lifetime of disability that leads to serious mental health issues," commented Ellis.

"This should be a priority for any government that wants to increase productivity and promote the wellbeing of its citizens." *JG*



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AMH Aged Care Companion New Release May 2024

Evidence-based information to address the most common agerelated illnesses and drug treatment challenges.

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AM-

TWC network expands to 600 stores

TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) has opened its 600th pharmacy in Bayswater, Victoria, with the group's milestone celebrated with a grand opening over the weekend.

Pharmacy owner Tam Nguyen hosted a lively community event featuring exclusive discounts. prizes, and activities that attracted local residents.

The official ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by Nguyen, accompanied by TWC Executive General Manager, Nick Munroe, and EBOS Group CEO. John Cullity.

"When the team from TWC informed me that our Bayswater pharmacy would be the 600th in the network, I felt an immense sense of pride," said Nguyen.

"Our decision to join TWC was driven by the brand's commitment to supporting pharmacies in





delivering superior health outcomes, she added.

"Through this partnership, my vision for a true community pharmacy with a strong clinical focus and a robust retail solution has been brought to life."

In the past 24 months, the TWC network has expanded, adding 100 new pharmacies across Australia.

TWC Bayswater showcases the latest in dispensing technology with the ROWA V-Max and a new electronic shelf label system, which allows for seamless price updates across the entire pharmacy,



Board reveals 38k registered pharmacists

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia's latest quarterly registration data report revealed that there are a total number of 37,949 registered pharmacists in the country.

This includes 33,359 pharmacists with general registration, 3,081 with provisional registration, 30 with limited registration, and 1,479 with non-practising registration.

The report, ending 31 Mar 2024, also highlights that 120 pharmacists, or 0.3% of the profession, identify as Aboriginal



and/or Torres Strait Islander. This data provides a

comprehensive overview of the current state of the pharmacist workforce in Australia.

For further data on breakdowns by division, age, gender and principal place of practice, CLICK HERE.

enhancing efficiency and reducing manual labour.

Munroe added, "reaching 600 pharmacies is a testament to the hard work and dedication of every pharmacy in the TWC network".

"I am thrilled that Tam and her team in Bayswater have chosen to join TWC, and their investment in expanding space for pharmacy services through our CareClinic program and enhancing efficiency demonstrates their dedication to patient care."

EBOS will continue to invest in the growth and development of the TWC brand, remarked Cullity.

"The opening of the 600th store highlights TWC's continued growth under EBOS' ownership," he said. JG

Pictured top: Munroe, husband of Nguyen Tim Olney, Tam Nguyen, and Cullity.



Samimi to lead

FORMER Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW branch President Rick Samimi has been appointed President of The Pharmacy Council of New South Wales.

Samimi joined the Council in Feb 2021, and co-owns three pharmacies in Sydney, with one rebranded as a Priceline Pharmacy (PD 17 July).

The Council consists of 10 members, including practising pharmacists, a legal member and various representatives from the community.

Five pharmacist members are elected by practicing pharmacists, and the other five are nominated by the Minister for Health and appointed by the Governor of NSW.

Pharmacist and University of NSW Faculty of Medicine and Health's Dr Cherie Lucas was appointed as the Deputy President of the Council.

Joining Samimi and Lucas are pharmacists Caroline Diamantis, Kate Gray, Quinn On and Christopher Hidayat.



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TGA approves tubeless pod

OSTEOARTHRITIS and

depression often go hand in hand, but exercise might just be the magic trick to feeling better showed a study published in *PLOS Global Public Health*.

In Melbourne, researchers gathered osteoarthritis patients waiting for orthopaedic consultations to see if physical activity could lighten their moods, regardless of pain.

They found that the more pain someone had, the more they benefited from exercise in terms of reducing depression.

Imagine that - sweating it out could actually make you smile. It turns out that exercise lowers pain, and less pain

means less depression.

So, the takeaway? The more it hurts, the more you should move.

Your joints might scream, but your mood will thank you.



AUSTRALIANS with type 1 diabetes (T1D) now have access to a device that combines automated insulin delivery with the freedom of a tube-free design.

Insulet Corporation Australia's Omnipod 5 Automated Insulin Delivery System, a tubeless, automated, and waterproof insulin delivery device, has received Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approval.

With over 130,000 Australians living with T1D, and two in three newly diagnosed under the age of 30, this new technology is a significant development, explained the company.

Joanna Sader, General Manager at Insulet, said, "we hear every day how pod therapy has made diabetes a smaller part of people's lives - freeing them from the burden of injections and the intrusiveness of tubes, which is a big reason why people avoid going onto pumps in the first place".

She added research in Australia has demonstrated that people have a preference for pod therapy over both multiple daily injections and tubed pumps, as pods provide better treatment satisfaction.

"The approval of Omnipod 5 Automated Insulin Delivery System by the TGA is an exciting



advancement and first of its kind for Australians of all ages living with diabetes, and goes a step further to simplify life with its automated insulin delivery feature," commented Sader.

She added that living with T1D is complex and time-consuming, requiring constant vigilance to manage the condition.

National data shows that access to continuous glucose monitors and pump technologies minimises the risk of complications and emergencies, and has been proven to reduce the mental burden of managing T1D.

However, research also shows accessibility to automated insulin delivery systems remains a challenge due to the current funding model, which excludes most people with T1D from accessing these systems. JG

Higher cancer risk



WOMEN with endometriosis may face a higher risk of ovarian cancer, according to new JAMA Network research.

The study found that women with endometriosis have a 4.2fold increased risk of ovarian cancer compared to those without the condition.

However, the risk is even more pronounced for those women with specific types of endometriosis disease.

Those with ovarian endometriomas (cysts) and deep infiltrating endometriosis have a 9.7-times higher risk of developing ovarian cancer.

The research also indicates that the type of endometriosis influences what kind of ovarian cancer is found.

The study researchers emphasised that while ovarian cancer remains relatively rare, the findings suggest that women with endometriosis, particularly severe subtypes, should receive targeted cancer screening and prevention strategies - see more **HERE**.

Check out the latest in Beauty & Wellness Every Thursday in *Pharmacy Daily*



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