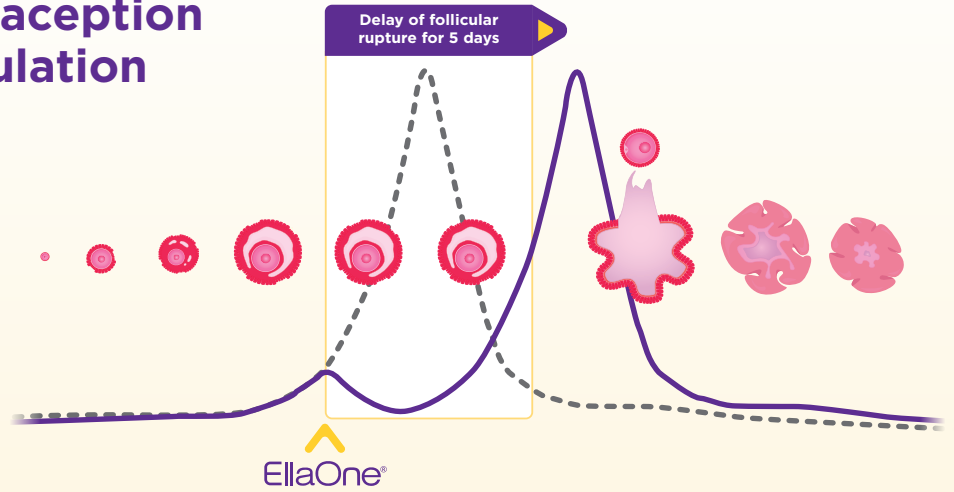


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Oral emergency contraception works by delaying ovulation

- Luteinising Hormone (LH) surge triggers ovulation however it is **difficult to predict** when this will occur.^{3,4}
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5 DAYS

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3 DAYS

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- UPA, the active ingredient in EllaOne, delays ovulation **more effectively** than LNG, to reduce the risk of falling pregnant.¹⁻³
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References: **1.** Glasier AF, Cameron ST, Fine PM, et al. Ulipristal acetate versus levonorgestrel for emergency contraception: a randomised non-inferiority trial and meta-analysis [published correction appears in Lancet. 2014 Oct 25;384(9953):1504]. Lancet. 2010;375(9714):555-562. **2.** EllaOne Product Information. Last date of revision 15 November 2021. **3.** Cooper GS, Ephross SA, Weinberg CR, Baird DD, Whelan EA, Sandler DP. Menstrual and reproductive risk factors for ischemic heart disease. Epidemiology. 1999;10(3):255-259. **4.** Trussell J, Rodriguez G, Ellertson C. New estimates of the effectiveness of the Yuzpe regimen of emergency contraception. Contraception. 1998;57(6):363-369. **5.** Norlevo Product Information. Last date of revision 09 January 2020. **6.** Nappi RE, Lobo Abascal P, Mansour D, Rabe T, Shojai R; Emergency Contraception Study Group. Use of and attitudes towards emergency contraception: a survey of women in five European countries. Eur J Contracept Reprod Health Care. 2014;19(2):93-101. **7.** Brache V, Cochon L, Deniaud M, Croxatto HB. Ulipristal acetate prevents ovulation more effectively than levonorgestrel: analysis of pooled data from three randomized trials of emergency contraception regimens. Contraception. 2013;88(5):611-618. **8.** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. Non-prescription medicine treatment guideline: Emergency contraception. Canberra: PSA; 2022. Perrigo Australia. ABN 56009293136. 25-29 Delawney Street, Western Australia, 6021, AUSTRALIA. MAT-3286.



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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, a cover wrap from Perrigo plus full pages from:

- Pointers
- Nova Pharmaceuticals
- Guild Insurance

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Concerns invited on Sigma-CW merger

THE reverse takeover of Sigma by Chemist Warehouse (CW) will increase prices, reduce service quality and degrade the healthcare available through the community pharmacy network, according to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

The peak body is urging all parties to make their submission on the specific Issues of Concern (PD 13 Jun) to the ACCC by 27 Jun.

The main problems are that structural market change may raise barriers to entry and expansion, particularly for independent pharmacies, and reduce competition in pharmacy retailing.

Delayed ovulation

PERRIGO'S emergency contraception medicine EllaOne is most effective in the 24 hours after intercourse and can delay ovulation.

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Also of alarm is the closure of community pharmacies currently supplied by wholesaler Sigma.

Further issues are over the access and use of Sigma-supplied independent pharmacies' data, reduced community pharmacy competition, and the closure of rival suppliers.

The Guild is asking state and territory governments, through their pharmacy regulators, to continue to scrutinise complex business models for compliance with existing community pharmacy ownership laws.

In an ASX statement yesterday, Sigma CEO and Managing Director Vikesh Ramsunder said, "we are co-operating closely with the ACCC and look forward to continuing to do so in the next phase of the merger review".

"The proposed transaction will ensure that Sigma, consistent with its regulatory obligations, can continue to serve franchisee and independent pharmacies

alike with a competitive offering, whilst delivering a transformational change for all Sigma stakeholders."

ACCC anticipates making a final decision on 05 Sep, however, this timeline can change.

To learn more and to make a submission, [CLICK HERE](#). JG

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Brodaty awarded

PROF Henry Brodaty, co-Director of the Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing, was awarded last week for lifetime service to dementia research and care at the 2024 Australian Dementia Research Forum.

Brodaty is responsible for the establishment of the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Society in NSW in 1982, which grew into Dementia Australia, and sparked a global movement, Alzheimer's Disease International, which includes 120 national associations.

Reflecting on his career, the lifetime award winner said, "it's been an incredible journey and one which continues to excite me".

"The community is hungry for news, especially as our population ages," said Brodaty.

"And today, when for the first time those aged over 64 outnumber children aged under 15, more of us are worried," he added.

"Dementia is such a superb paradigm for the complexity of healthcare, and clinicians, researchers, aged care providers and policy makers need to grapple with medical, psychiatric, social, policy and economic issues," said Brodaty.

"Those affected are grateful for the help we can give them and for the research that may benefit them and their children and grandchildren."

Brodaty has published over 800 papers and book chapters, receiving numerous accolades, including the Order of Australia in 2000 as well as the International Ryman Prize in 2016.

Top tech trends at PCS24

EXCLUSIVE

THE fast-changing world of healthcare today has meant that the use of technology in pharmacy practice is more important than ever, according to workflow automation company Omnicell.

It's a topic that will be discussed during the leaders panel at the Pharmacy Careers Summit 2024 (PS24), sponsored by Omnicell.

Speaking to **Pharmacy Daily**, Omnicell's Marketing Manager Sam Burrell shared that its goal at PCS24 is to drive insights into innovation, foster collaboration and ensure people stay at the forefront of advancing healthcare delivery.

"Running a pharmacy is a challenging business as pharmacists get burdened with manual and administrative tasks, diversion, and safety concerns, making it hard to spend enough time with patients," said Burrell.

"But workflow efficiency doesn't need to come at the price of safety and compliance," he added.

"With data-driven medication management and adherence solutions, pharmacists can safely bolster operations and help technicians work more efficiently.

"Pharmacies are increasingly

turning to technology to streamline their workflows and free staff from simple, repetitive tasks, allowing them to provide better service to customers," commented Burrell.

Hosted by pharmacist and founder of Meitheal Services Krysti-Lee Patterson, the leadership panel titled, 'A view from the top, Australia's Pharmacy vitality and what lies ahead' will give insights into the current state of pharmacy, and discuss trends and innovations.

PCS24, presented by Raven's Recruitment and **Pharmacy Daily**, provides attendees an opportunity to hear from industry leaders about the future of pharmacy and to explore various professional development opportunities.

The event's timing with the signing of the 8CPA (**PD** 03 Jun), will give industry leaders the chance to share their insights on what it means for community pharmacy.

The broader PCS24 event will also help attendees network with industry leaders and peers, opening doors to new career opportunities and collaborations, which will assist pharmacists to tackle future healthcare challenges.

To register for the free, virtual PCS24 event, **CLICK HERE**. *JG*

Colvin appointed as Red Cross CEO

THE Australian Red Cross has announced the appointment of Andrew Colvin as its new Chief Executive Officer.

The peak body's President Charles Burkitt said, "Colvin's proven leadership and deep understanding of crisis management will be invaluable as we continue to respond to the evolving needs of communities across Australia and beyond".

"His clear dedication to public service also aligns perfectly with our mission to alleviate human suffering and build resilient communities," said Burkitt.

Colvin, who previously led the National Bushfire Recovery Agency after the 2019-2020 Black Summer, has recently been a partner at Deloitte Australia.

Based in Canberra, Colvin will commence his role on 01 Jul.

Checks drop again

THE Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released the *National Bowel Cancer Screening Program Monitoring Report 2024*, revealing a continued decline in participation, dropping to 40% from 40.9% in 2021.

Six million Aussies aged 50-74 were invited to participate in the free program, yet six in 10 did not return their free bowel cancer screening test.

"This is the second consecutive year of declining NBCSP participation rates since 2020, which is of concern, given the program's life-saving potential as 99% of bowel cancer cases can be successfully treated when detected early," said Bowel Cancer Australia (BCA) CEO Julien Wiggins.

In 2022, 64,932 participants (5.7%) received a positive result, indicating blood in their stool that required further investigation via colonoscopy.

Only 13.5% of these people received a colonoscopy within the recommended 30-day timeframe, down from 15.6% in 2021.

Waiting times varied between 133 and 197 days, depending on location.

"The opportunity for early detection is lost if a positive screening result is not promptly followed by a colonoscopy," added Wiggins.

BCA also welcomed a milestone in its campaign, with the NBCSP screening age lowered from 50 to 45.

Starting 01 Jul, eligible participants aged 45-49 can opt-in for their first free bowel cancer screening test (**PD** 16 May).

Medicines Management 2024

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Early-bird closes Thursday 3 October

mm2024.shpa.org.au/register



Stan Grant

KEYNOTE

Dispensary Corner

IN A surprising turn of events, a New Zealand study in *PLOS ONE* found that virtual reality (VR) headsets might just be the new epidural.

Nineteen brave new mothers donned VR headsets during labour, allowing them to escape to serene beaches, exciting safaris, and dolphin-filled underwater scenes.

The result was they were so distracted by the virtual worlds that they almost forgot they were in labour.

The new mums did report some minor drawbacks, like the headsets feeling as heavy as a toddler on their heads, and the awkwardness of being in their happy place, while their support team was left in the real world.

But, despite these quirks, almost all of the women said they would use the VR headsets again, and even recommend them to others.

The study was designed to see if VR could provide natural pain relief during labour, and it turned out to be a virtual success.

The women reported that the VR experiences were a fantastic way to manage pain and anxiety.

One mum even joked that she was so engrossed in her virtual beach vacation, she half expected a waiter to bring her a pina colada.

In conclusion, the study highlighted that VR was not only effective but also provided some much-needed comic relief during labour.

So, next time someone is going to hospital in labour get them to pack a VR set, as labour might be the ultimate staycation.

80 finalists vie for PATY 2024 award

A RECORD 80 state finalists are vying for the 2024 Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award (PATY).

According to the Guild National President Trent Twomey, these finalists will advance to the next round of the competition.

He emphasised the importance of the PATY award, and remarked, "this prestigious award was established to acknowledge pharmacy assistants across Australia who demonstrate exceptional dedication to patient care and show proactive commitment to their professional development".

The state finalists will participate in virtual judging sessions throughout Jun, with winners from each state and territory attending an in-person national workshop



in Sep, during the 2024 Pharmacy Assistant National Conference (PA2024) in Sydney.

"The state winners will gain access to exclusive training and development sessions, receive return flights and accommodation for the national judging workshop on 05 Sep in Sydney, complimentary registration to the PA2024, and the opportunity to judge PATY2025 state workshops," said Twomey.

The 2024 PATY award and Glucojel Runner Up prize winners will be

announced at the PA2024 cocktail party on 06 Sep.

The national winner will receive a \$5,000 cash prize, complimentary registration, return flights, and accommodation for the 2025 APP and PA conference, and an invitation to participate in the 2025 national judging workshop.

For over two decades, the national conference has been a key event for the education of pharmacy assistants, and will once again be held alongside Pharmacy Connect, featuring a 70-plus stand trade exhibition and social events, including the welcome reception and cocktail party.

Early bird registration for the conference is open until 30 Jun, offering a \$65 discount on the full registration fee.

To learn more, **CLICK HERE**.

Health spend up

THE Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) has released its Household Spending Insights (HSI) Index which investigates the spending habits of more than seven million Australians to understand spending patterns and provide insights into how the Australian economy is performing.

Health experienced a slight increase in spending for May, up just 0.5%, following on from a small 0.9% increase in Apr.

The largest health spending in May was from GPs, pharmacies and other specialist services, which was offset by reduced spending on fertility services, ophthalmologists, dermatologists and medical equipment stores.

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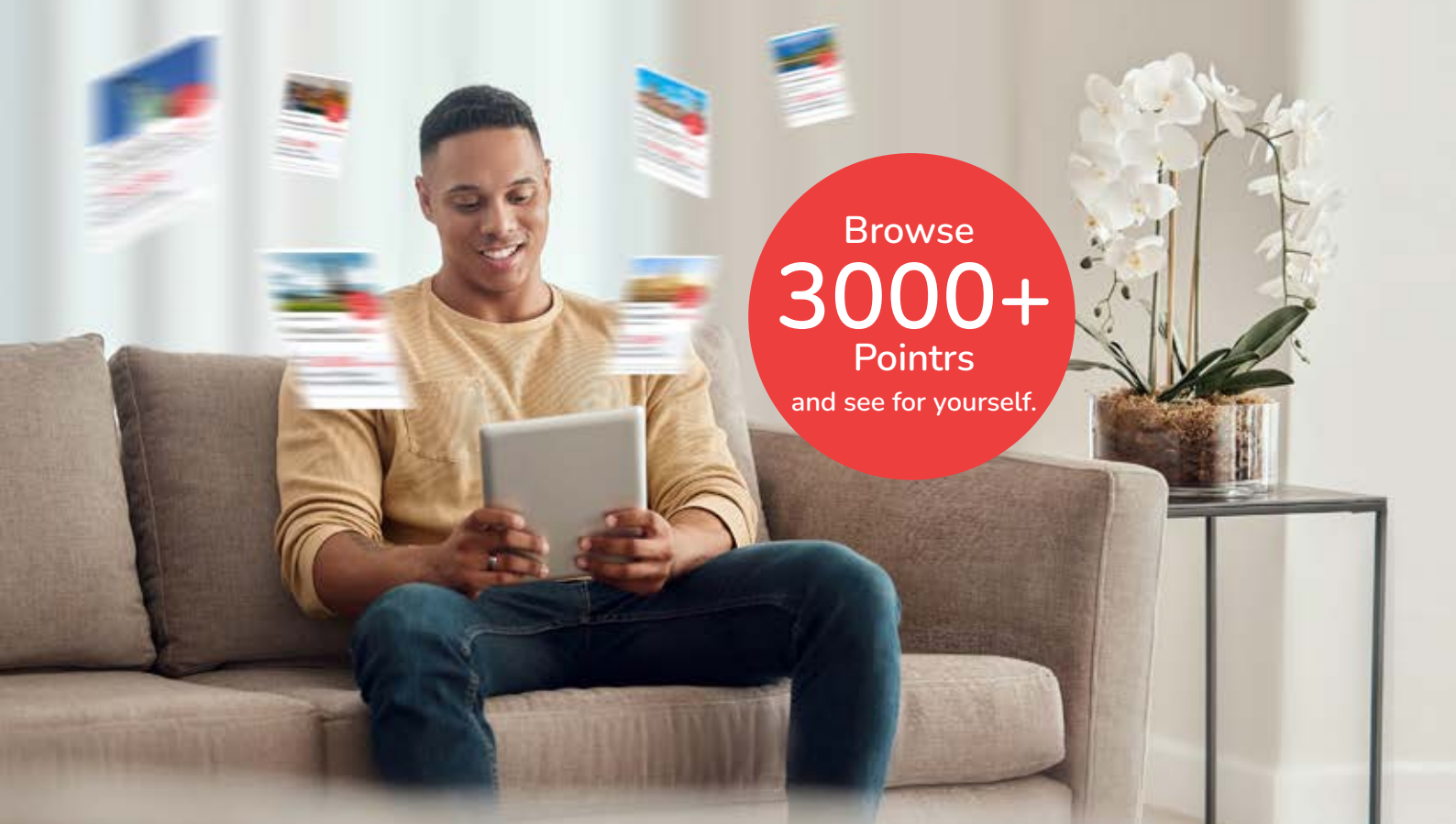


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For over 60 years, Guild Insurance has supported Australia's pharmacy profession through everything you do. Together with the PGA and PDL, we've worked hard to ensure our policies protect and reflect pharmacists' real-life needs.

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What's a scope of practice pilot?

Scope of practice pilots will continue to evolve as state and federal governments and their agencies continue to work with our profession. In Queensland right now, community pharmacists who have undertaken 12 months of additional training can offer additional services to patients for a number of conditions, including school sores, shingles, mild psoriasis, wound management, swimmer's ear, weight loss management and hypertension, among others. It is these types of programs that Guild has committed to support through the addition of an additional benefit.

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If you'd like to find out more about Guild's exclusive support of pharmacy's scope of practice pilots, visit guildinsurance.com.au/pilot or if you'd like to be protected by a policy that is tailor made for Australian pharmacists, call a Guild insurance specialist on **1800 810 213**.

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