

Today's issue of PD

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

Savings on travel

POINTRS is offering people ways to save money on travel by using cash, credit card and loyalty points.

There are over 3,000 hotel stays and flights to explore for pharmacists and others.

See more on the **back page**.

PAs pain module

PHARMACY Club and Reckitt Benckiser have released the Nurofen Women's Pain QCPP module for pharmacy assistants (PAs).

The gender pain gap will also be addressed in the module.

To learn more about Pharmacy Club, **CLICK HERE**.

J&J latest US talc lawsuit

CANCER patients in the US are suing Johnson & Johnson (J&J), accusing it of committing fraud by using a shell company's bankruptcy to settle thousands of lawsuits, reported *Reuters*.

Five plaintiffs who represent 50,000 people allege the company's talc products contained asbestos causing cancer.

They claim that the pharma company's bankruptcy strategy has avoided a payout of billions of dollars to plaintiffs in an attempt to "hinder, delay, and defraud these women and prevent them from ever having their day in court".

"Johnson & Johnson is playing a dark game of chess with this country's financial and judicial systems," said Mike Papantonio, an attorney for the cancer plaintiffs.

J&J's worldwide Vice President of Litigation, Erik Haas, said the lawsuit was a "Hail Mary pass" by the plaintiffs' lawyers, who do not want their clients to vote on the company's latest proposed

bankruptcy settlement.

"Why are they so desperate to stop the vote?" Haas said.

"Our focus is and remains reaching a full, fair and final resolution of this litigation, and allowing the claimants to speak for themselves."

The corporate bankruptcy manoeuvre started in 2021.

Yesterday's lawsuit seeks a ruling that the 'Texas two-step' transaction was fraudulent, as it was undertaken "solely to shelter J&J's assets from talc litigation".

According to *Reuters*, "most of the talc lawsuits have been brought by women with ovarian cancer, while other cases involve people with mesothelioma, a deadly cancer linked to asbestos exposure".

J&J Australia was contacted for comment but didn't respond prior to publication.

However, the organisation continues to state that its baby powder and other talc products are safe, do not contain asbestos, and do not cause cancer. *JG*

60k MBA winners

THIS week, two pharmacists have been awarded University of Sydney MBA scholarships worth \$60,000 each.

NSW public health sector pharmacist Kate Woods was the recipient of the Anstice MBA Scholarship for Community Leadership.

Woods has spent time in a number of roles, including working Rwanda on a cardiac surgery program, and her current role as Dispensary Lead Pharmacist at Calvary Mater Hospital in Newcastle.

Meanwhile, Michael Quach, Chief Pharmacist of Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District of NSW Health, was awarded the Alex Safarian MBA Scholarship.

Quach, who has a solid background across the hospital and research sectors, will now have the opportunity to further develop his senior leadership skills.

Reduces strokes

BRAIN scans for infants under the age of one could help identify risk factors for a potential stroke later in life, researchers at the University of South Australia have found.

Lead researcher and neuroanatomy expert for the study, Arjun Burlakoti, said, "cerebral aneurysms can develop at any age".

"Our study not only shows that aneurysms occur and rupture on their internal circumstances, but also that any brain vessel variations are likely to be present from birth," explained Burlakoti.

"This means if we can identify variations in the brain arterial network in childhood, we can more actively monitor and check at-risk people throughout their life," he said.

"Safe, non-invasive screening test presents a path for families to regularly follow-up if variations are detected."

LPG, IPA raise \$46k for Beyond Blue

THE Cavaliers rally team from Life Pharmacy Group (LPG) and the Independent Pharmacies of Australia (IPA) have raised \$46,000 for mental health, after taking part recently in Beyond Blue's Bitumen Rally 2024.

More than half a million dollars was raised during the not-for-profit's rally and The Cavaliers' fundraising efforts were the highest of any team at this year's event.

"Seven years ago, I went to a Beyond Bitumen presentation dinner in my hometown of Forbes," Michael Flannery (pictured right), Founder and Executive Director of IPA Group, told *Pharmacy Daily*.

"A mate of mine who did the rally got up on stage, initially as a joke to sing a Kenny Rogers song, but halfway through, he broke down and started sharing his story about how he struggled with mental illness being a remote farmer.

"He talked that night about Beyond Blue's importance for people like him who are on a farm."



"Isn't it an amazing thing? You can have a mate like that slip under your radar and not realise it."

The following year, Flannery and IPA's Chief Technology Officer Warwick Marx (pictured left) bought a vehicle for the event, and The Cavaliers rally team was born.

Over six years, The Cavaliers team has grown to more than 20 people.

While "a group of blokes" would not normally want to stand around and talk, Flannery thought sitting in a rally car with his teammates would be good for everyone's

mental health.

He mentioned The Cavaliers strongly supports the important work that Beyond Blue carries out and are advocates for raising awareness of depression, anxiety and suicide prevention.

"Growing up in regional Australia where the suicide rate is considerably higher than urban areas, particularly for men, The Cavaliers understand the importance of checking in on your mates and seeking help if you're feeling low or anxious." JG

Hear from our Franchise Partners

"Priceline was the only brand in the region that offered a point of difference, with cosmetics and skincare tied in with dispensary. We have remained a really strong competitor in town and haven't looked back. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend Priceline, it's a unique offering and it's been really beneficial for us."

Tarin Dobbie

Priceline Pharmacy Bundaberg, QLD

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Editor's Choice: South Korean beauty balm in Priceline stores

SOUTH Korean brand Banilo Co's best-selling skincare product has arrived on Priceline Pharmacy shelves around Australia.

Designed with all skin types in mind, the Clean It Zero Cleansing Balm was created to quickly and easily melt away even the most stubborn face and eye makeup.

Ideal as the first step in a double-cleansing routine, the skin-loving formula works to hydrate the skin, cleansing it deeply without disturbing the natural moisture balance.

The lightweight, sorbet-like balm contains active botanicals, hot springs water, vitamin E and vitamin C, and is available in 100ml and 180ml sizes.



Customers can choose from several variations depending on their skin type and needs, including 'Original', 'Nourishing', 'Brightening', 'Purifying', and 'Pore Clarifying'.

The manufacturer recommends using the spatula, which is included with the product, to

scoop the balm and gently massage onto dry skin using circular motions.

Users should then add water to emulsify the oil and massage again, before rinsing well with lukewarm water or wiping off with a face cloth or tissue.

The balm retails for \$34-\$43.

Natural lash health



WHEN most 20-year-olds were out partying with their friends, beauty entrepreneur and self-confessed university dropout Olivia Epifano was busy launching her own false eyelash brand in 2019.

However, when Epifano launched Lavish just months before COVID hit, consumers stopped wearing fake lashes, which the brand originally offered.

Epifano eventually noticed that people were still applying mascara in lockdown, inspiring her to switch her focus to natural lash health instead.

Enter the viral Lash Lifter, a tool that replaces a salon lash lift.

Four years and more than 45 million TikTok views later, the Melbourne-based brand has just undergone a major rebrand and expanded its product range, now available at select independent pharmacies in Australia.

The new Lavish collection includes three new products: Brow Illusion, Lash Illusion Mascara and Lash Illusion Eye Lash Serum.

All are formulated without any chemicals and boast 13 vitamins and peptides to help promote longer, thicker and stronger brows and lashes.

Get deeper cleaning

TOP UK sonic toothbrush brand Ordo has just launched into Australia, aiming to be a stylish, high-quality product that offers a deeper cleaning experience.

Designed and approved by dentists, Ordo brushes offer 40,000 sonic pulses per minute with four bespoke brushing modes, ensuring effective plaque removal and healthier, whiter teeth.

The products come with a smart two-minute timer and quad pacer.



L'Occitane delivers a splash of hydration



L'OCCITANE has launched its new Aqua Reotier range, specifically designed for skin types prone to dehydration.

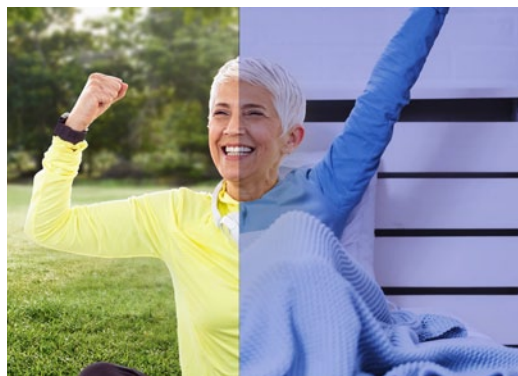
The products use a unique water-based formulation to maintain a fresh and thoroughly hydrated complexion, ensuring long-lasting moisture retention.

Water-based skincare products are ideal for individuals with combination to oily skin types, as well as those with dry or dehydrated skin.

The Source Reotier Glow Gel-Cream claims to enhance the skin's natural hydration levels using a blend of rice peptides, hyaluronic acid, lavender essential oil, and 25% concentration of calcium-rich Reotier active water.

The collection also includes a Purifying Cleansing Gel, which can be used to balance and purify the skin, as well as a Balancing Essence and a Mattifying Fluid, which can be used as the last step in the skincare routine.

L'Occitane is stocked in pharmacies around Australia, including Chemist Warehouse.



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Dispensary Corner

A DISCUSSION thread on Reddit this week saw one user put out a call for examples of some of the amusing things people have said under anaesthesia or sedation, and the responses doctors have given.

Perhaps the funniest response came from one user who went in for a routine colonoscopy, joking to the doctor that all they wanted was a teeth cleaning.

"Don't worry, we can get there from here," the doctor replied.

After receiving an IV drip, another patient quipped, 'does anybody need anything while I'm out?'

Another user referred to his anaesthesiologist administering the IV and calmly saying 'Ok we're going to go to sleep now' before the patient said 'I think one of us should stay awake!'

One patient going under for an undisclosed procedure queried the anaesthesiologist to wonder whether diarrhoea was hereditary - because it goes through your jeans.

Another person getting a vasectomy felt it appropriate to quip, 'don't go nuts down there doctor', as he was going under.

Turns out anaesthesia can also see patients answer, whether right or wrong, some of the great questions of pop culture.

American plastic surgeon Dr Anthony Youn said he once asked one of his patients - who was connected to the US rap scene of the 1990s - the person who killed Tupac Shakur.

Dr Youn claimed as he went under, his patient allegedly revealed the culprit's identity.

In-store spend rises by 8%



OUT-OF-POCKET spending at pharmacies grew by 8% faster than other medical healthcare services, revealed CommBank iO's *Cost of Living Insights Report* today.

Analysing approximately seven million Australian transactions or around 30% of all spending, the report explained that while the number of visits to pharmacies held steady, the amount people spent had increased, meaning people are paying more for their medicines and other pharmacy services.

Housing expenses such as mortgages and rent were not included in the analysis, as this is not a factor consumers can easily change, stated CommBank.

"We're more interested in how

consumers change their everyday spending, often to ensure there's enough left over for these immovable costs."

The report also revealed that when compared with out-of-pocket spending on other medical and healthcare services, which rose by 3%, pharmacy spending far outstripped it.

Further, the three top categories considered as essentials by the public were insurance, medical and pharmacy, and supermarkets.

Other insights confirmed that overall people are continuing to trim discretionary consumption and rising prices keep consumers' attention firmly on the essentials.

To read the report, [CLICK HERE](#). JG

Diabetes meds risk

RESEARCH has found the rising use of insulin and ongoing high use of another antidiabetic drug, sulfonylureas, are both associated with heightened risk of hypoglycaemia in aged care residents with diabetes.

The study, recently published in *Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice*, led by the Registry of Senior Australians, examined de-identified data from 140,322 residents across 3,273 aged care homes, identifying potential gaps in diabetes management.

"We found insulin use increased and sulfonylureas were still used by one in five residents," said study researcher Yohanas Wondimkun from University of South Australia.

"These medications can help to manage diabetes but can increase the risk of hypoglycaemia and have been targeted for national intervention to limit medication-induced harm in aged care homes."

The annual percentage of residents with diabetes treated with blood sugar-lowering medications was generally stable at 64% over the 11-year study period.

Metformin was the most commonly-prescribed drug throughout the study, taken by 36% of people in 2009 and increasing to 44% in 2019.

"On the positive side, the use of newer diabetes medications like DPP-4 inhibitors increased by 24% annually, suggesting a general shift towards more costly treatments with a lower risk of hypoglycaemia, based on emerging evidence."

Avian influenza strain found in Victoria

BIRD flu or avian influenza has been detected on an egg farm in Victoria's west, according to Agriculture Victoria.

Testing has revealed the strain to be H7N7.

The property has been placed into quarantine and Agriculture Victoria staff are on the ground to support the business and investigate further.

While experts are relieved that this strain is not the highly

pathogenic H5N1 strain that is being detected overseas, poultry keepers are urged to monitor their birds carefully.

Infectious diseases expert A/Prof Sanjaya Senanayake said while the infection is "not good news, H7N7 to this point has only been associated with sporadic cases of bird flu".

He also emphasised the need for Australia's Centre for Disease Control to be fully resourced.

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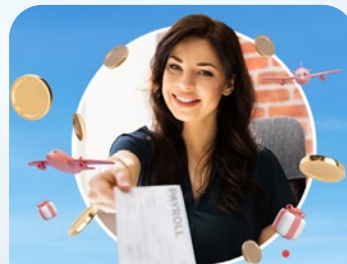
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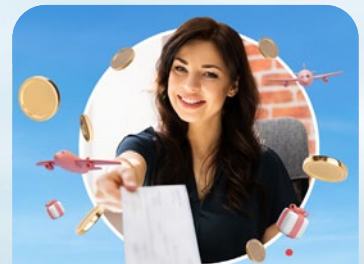
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