

## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features four pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature, plus full pages from:

- **Pharmacist Advice**
- **Nova Pharmaceuticals**
- **BioCeuticals**

## Position for growth

**PHARMACIST** Advice is looking for new members with a small store footprint, who are focused on patient-pharmacist interaction.

It is a growing brand with 10-plus stores added in the past 12 months - see **page five**.

## Emergency med

**NOVA** Pharmaceuticals' emergency contraception Novella-1 is available now to order for dispensing by pharmacists to appropriately counselled customers - see **p6**.

# Pharm X's new supplier partnerships

**ONLINE** ordering platform PharmX is set to expand its product offerings with new suppliers, including Pfizer's Abrilada and VapeLab's nicotine vapourised products.

These additions reflect the company's ongoing commitment to providing pharmacies with greater value and choice.

The platform has also added 15 suppliers, such as MCoBeauty, Montu, Bondi Smile, Blisterpod, Botani, Aust World Trade, Lux Aestiva, and The Brow Technicians.

This strategic expansion supports PharmX's FY25 growth objectives, which focuses on increasing its supplier base and targeting high-growth areas like beauty, medicinal cannabis, and technology.

"PharmX is dedicated to supporting suppliers and pharmacies with a platform that simplifies and enhances their operations," said Tom Culver, CEO of PharmX.

"By partnering with industry leaders, we're meeting the diverse

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needs of our pharmacy partners and solidifying our position as the top pharmacy ordering solution."

PharmX now offers over 80,000 SKUs through its Gateway and Marketplace solutions, and its collaboration with several suppliers has unlocked various market opportunities.

Sandy Mellis, CEO of VidaCorp, commented, "PharmX has been invaluable in helping us reach a broader customer base and generate strong sales".

"This partnership has enabled millions of dollars in MCo orders, growing each week."

With over 20 years of service, PharmX supports 99% of

pharmacies across Australia and New Zealand.

By expanding supplier access, PharmX aims to continue to help pharmacies reduce costs, optimise operations, and help deliver service to their communities. **JG**

## Top digital support

**BIOCEUTICALS** has updated its website for enhanced digital support for pharmacists with greater ease of functionality, on-demand product training, and uninterrupted access to its interactions database.

Learn more on the **back page**.

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## Chlamydia self-test approved

**THE** TGA has approved Australia's first self-test kit for chlamydia and gonorrhoea.

Developed by Touch Biotechnology, the kit will be available from pharmacies, distributors and online across the country in coming weeks.

It can produce a result on both infections from a single swab sample within 15 minutes, instead of one to three days at present.

With over 110,000 reported cases in 2023, chlamydia is the most reported communicable disease in Australia, however, it is often asymptomatic and may go undiagnosed.

Gonorrhoea presents as pain or discomfort in the throat, eyes, cervix and other areas, but may be mistaken for other infections.

"For women in particular, STIs such as gonorrhoea and chlamydia are major causes of pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility if they go undiagnosed and untreated," GM at Touch Biotechnology, Mazz Gencer said.

"These infections can also cause complications to pregnancy and birth because of the risk of mother-to-child transmission," he warned.

"That's why it's important for women to test for STIs when experiencing even the smallest of symptoms or are concerned about a partner's sexual activity," Gencer concluded.

## HRT patch shortage alert



**SANDOZ** and Juno have notified the TGA of shortages of their estradiol and combination estradiol/norethisterone transdermal patch products used for hormone replacement therapy in the management of perimenopause and menopause.

The Climara brand of HRT transdermal patches was discontinued at the end of 2023, which has contributed to the supply constraints of alternative products.

The TGA has approved the supply of several overseas-registered estradiol-containing transdermal patches that pharmacists can order and supply using existing prescriptions.

The regulatory authority advises pharmacists to call the approval holders, Sandoz on 1800 726 369 or Medsurge Healthcare on 1300 788 261, for details about ordering these products.

The 37.5mcg, 50mcg, 75mcg and

100mcg strengths of some of the overseas-registered alternative estradiol HRT products are subsidised on the PBS.

Under the SSSI that is in place, and if pharmacists consider it suitable in their professional and clinical judgement, they can substitute a prescribed estradiol transdermal patch with either an alternative brand of estradiol transdermal patch of the same strength or two packs of half the prescribed strength to make the same equivalent daily dose.

The patient may need instructions on how to apply an unfamiliar patch or multiple patches.

The TGA advises referring patients to the prescriber if substitution is inappropriate, an appropriate substitutable medicine is not available or alternative treatments other than substitution may be better. *KB*

For more info, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Latest health spend figures

**THE** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare yesterday released the latest national health expenditure figures, reporting that total health spending has returned to pre-pandemic trends.

The 2022-23 spend totalled \$252.5 billion, equivalent to almost \$10,000 per person or 9.9% of GDP.

Health spending decreased by 0.3% in real terms, which was lower than the decade average annual growth of 3.3%.

Government health spending, which was around \$100 billion, decreased by 2.6% while non-government spending increased by around 5.8% in 2022-23.

The main non-government sources were individuals (53%) and private health insurance providers (26%) .

Spending on hospitals was just over \$107 billion, an increase of almost 5% compared with the previous years, while spending on primary care decreased by over 8% to \$83 billion.

Cancer generated the highest spend, followed by cardiovascular diseases and musculoskeletal disorders, which together accounted for a third of disease spending.

Spend on conditions within disease groups was highest for injuries from falls (\$5.1 billion), osteoarthritis (\$4.9 billion) and back pain (\$3.9 billion).

## Check out the latest in Beauty & Wellness

Every Thursday in *Pharmacy Daily*

Do you have a beauty or wellness product? Send it [HERE](#) for consideration.

**Beauty & Wellness**  
by Pharmacy Daily





## Editor's choice: New double-strength vitamin K2 tablets

**CARUSO'S** Natural Health company has just released a new product, Vitamin K2 Double Strength designed to maintain bone health.

Statistics show that over 1 million Australians have osteoporosis.

Of those aged 50 years and over, 66% have osteoporosis or osteopenia and over 183,000 broken bones occur each year due to poor bone health.

There are many things we can do to maintain our bone health, from resistance training to maintaining a healthy weight. Nutrition also plays an important role.

The skeleton is almost completely renewed about every ten years via a complex and highly organised

metabolic process involving specialised cells called osteoblasts and osteoclasts.

Osteoblasts help move calcium into your bones, and osteoclasts move calcium out of your bones and into your bloodstream.

Vitamin K2 plays an important role in the production and activity of osteocalcin, a protein secreted by osteoblasts.

Osteocalcin binds calcium and incorporates it into your bones (a process known as mineralisation).

Caruso's Vitamin K2 Double Strength helps to support bone mineralisation and increase the metabolism of calcium in bones.

*\*Compared to Caruso's Vitamin K2 90 micrograms.*



## Nioxin Pro Clinical



**NIOXIN** Pro Clinical's System Kit 1 is a three-step regimen designed for natural, untreated hair with light thinning.

Clinically and dermatologically tested, the system thickens and strengthens the hair against breakage from the root to tip. In testing, 8 out of 10 users reported thicker, fuller hair in 30 days.

It is formulated with a blend of niacinamide, biotin and caffeine to help nourish the hair root, stimulate hair follicles and strengthen the hair.

The three-step regimen comprises a Scalp + Hair Shampoo, Scalp + Hair Conditioner and Scalp + Hair Thickening treatment.

The gentle shampoo works to remove buildup, including follicle-clogging sebum and environmental residues, preparing the scalp for the next steps.

The conditioner helps to restore moisture balance, while protecting against breakage.

The final stage is the Scalp + Hair Thickening Treatment, which is applied to the entire scalp and left in without rinsing.

The treatment is recommended for daily use, helping to increase the volume of every strand, leaving your hair looking fuller and thicker.

## Pimple patches

**IN A** recent clinical test, DermaAngel was shown to be the thinnest, most absorbent and best adhesive pimple patch compared to local competitors, setting it apart as the go-to choice for effective, discreet skin treatment.

The day patches have a natural matte finish and are designed to be worn under makeup.

The soothing night patches have added salicylic acid, known for its deep-cleansing and anti-inflammatory properties.



## Quick Screen SPF50+ facial spray and lip oil



**THE** Watermelon Glow SPF Set is a new limited edition SPF50+ sunscreen spray paired with a SPF50 watermelon lip oil.

Made with Watermelon Seed Oil Extract, it is great for on-the-go touch-ups and fits easily in your handbag.

The spray is an ideal solution to

re-applying sunscreen over makeup throughout the day.

It is fast absorbing, non-greasy and does not leave a white cast.

It also acts as a makeup setting spray and hydrating mist and can be worn under makeup.

For the first application each day, apply the spray 20 minutes before sun exposure by spraying directly onto hands and then apply to the face before makeup.

The SPF50 lip oil is deeply nourishing with a sheer pink glow, providing the shine of a gloss, minus the stickiness, with the fresh and juicy scents of summer.

Apply generously and evenly to the lips 20 minutes before sun exposure. Re-apply often, especially after eating, drinking, kissing or licking the lips.

# hunny

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## Dispensary Corner

**IN A** move straight out of reality TV, Donald Trump announced TV personality Dr Mehmet Oz as his pick to lead the US Medicare and Medicaid services.

Posting on Truth Social, Trump declared, "Dr Oz will fix our broken healthcare system".

"Prevention is the key, and we'll get the best results in the world for every dollar."

The pairing of Oz with Trump's nominee for Health Secretary, Robert F Kennedy Jr, forms what Trump calls his "dream team" to tackle the "illness industrial complex".

While his fans cheered, skeptics raised their eyebrows, noting Oz's controversial history: who could forget his Senate grilling, where he was scolded for pitching "miracle" weight-loss products?

After Trump appeared on *The Dr Oz Show* in 2016, their bromance blossomed during the pandemic, with Oz touting hydroxychloroquine and Trump enthusiastically taking it.

Some joked it was the closest we'd come to a buddy TV series titled *Hydroxy and the Prez*.

While critics worry about Dr Oz's track record, the good doctor is optimistic.

In a recent X post, he congratulated Trump's "landslide win", adding, "it is time to disrupt chronic disease...together, we will save lives and money".

Love him or hate him, Oz's new role ensures the nation's healthcare will never be the same again.

## Diabetic heart discovery

**RESEARCHERS** from Monash University have uncovered promising new insights into treating heart disease in diabetic patients.

A preclinical study published in *Cardiovascular Diabetology* revealed that a natural fat molecule, lipoxin A4 (LXA4), could significantly reduce inflammation and improve heart function in people with diabetes.

Diabetes-related heart conditions, such as atherosclerosis, heart attacks and heart failure, are leading causes of death for people

with diabetes, contributing to a growing global health crisis.

Chronic inflammation plays a crucial role in the progression of these conditions, damaging the heart over time.

Senior author Dr Chengxue Helena Qin, from the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, explained that LXA4, which is known for its "calming" anti-inflammatory properties, could help mitigate this damage.

In preclinical animal models, and collaborating with University College Dublin, the team found that LXA4 reduced both inflammation and scar tissue formation in diabetic hearts by up to 50%.

"This discovery holds promise for developing new, targeted therapies for people with diabetic heart disease," Dr Qin said.

"With recent advances in making LXA4 more 'drug-like', our findings suggest that LXA4-based treatments could work alongside existing diabetes medications."

The research also showed that LXA4 helps stimulate reparative immune cells in the heart, which aids in reducing scar tissue and improving heart function. *JG*

## COVID-19 blues

**A NEW** study from Flinders University reveals that Australians with disabilities experienced significant declines in life satisfaction and mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The research, published in *Disability and Society*, highlights how disruptions to support services, especially those under the National Disability Insurance Scheme, compounded the challenges faced by those with disabilities.

The study found that reduced access to paid and informal support networks - such as assistance with housekeeping, shopping, and personal care - led to a decline in wellbeing.

Around half of participants reported being satisfied with their lives before the pandemic, but this dropped to just 38% during lockdowns.

Although life satisfaction improved after restrictions eased, mental health and happiness levels remained below pre-pandemic levels.

To learn more, **CLICK HERE**.

## AdPha on growth

**ADVANCED** Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has welcomed the announcement that the title of 'Doctor of Pharmacy' will now be granted through Masters Degree (Extended) programs, offering emerging pharmacy practitioners new opportunities for advanced career pathways (*PD* 20 Nov).

AdPha President Tom Simpson explained that, "the Doctor of Pharmacy title opens doors to advanced pharmacy environments where skills can really thrive".

Simpson also highlighted AdPha's Clinical Pharmacy Standards (*PD* 15 Nov), and the Australian and New Zealand College of Advanced Pharmacy (*PD* 24 Nov 2023) as essential frameworks supporting the expanded scope of pharmacy practice.

Dr Jacinta Johnson, Chair of AdPha's Training Program Advisory Committee, noted the announcement's significance for students, signalling valuable career growth through diverse learning and specialisation opportunities.

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