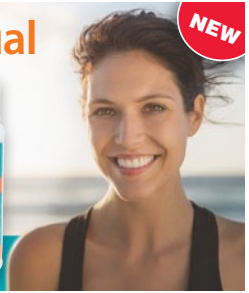


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## Today's issue of PD

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

- Chemsave
- Glucojel
- Wizard Pharmacy

## Chemsave saves

WHETHER it's catalogue pre-order rebates, dispensary assistance subscriptions or bonus stock, aligning with Chemsave delivers bottom-line benefits – learn more about a special offer on **page four**.

## 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 - details on **page five**.

## Work for Wizard

WIZARD Pharmacy is on the lookout for the best pharmacy leaders and emerging talent to build their careers within its network in Darwin.

Competitive salary packages are on offer to the right candidates - details on **page six**.

## Asthma drug fear

THE United States' Food & Drug Administration has found a widely used asthma drug binds to brain receptors, affecting psychiatric functions.

Researchers found significant quantities of Montelukast in patients' brain receptors, which govern mood, impulse, and more, *Reuters* reported.

## Exam delivery changed



FROM 2025, the Australian Pharmacy Council's (APC) Intern Written Exam will no longer be delivered via remote proctored exams, except in exceptional circumstances.

The remote exams were a necessary change that was made during the Covid-19 pandemic to support the pharmacy workforce.

"Since the pandemic, there has been a significant shift back towards test centres as the preferred sitting option.

"Test centres have now resumed full operations, and in line with other organisations delivering high stakes exams, we can only offer OnVUE in exceptional circumstances," said Chief Executive Officer Bronwyn Clark, who made the announcement yesterday.

"This decision aligns with our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of exam integrity and security," Clark continued.

According to the APC, sitting the exams within a test centre provides a more stable technical environment, reducing the risk of any connection problems which may impact the experience.

It also ensures that all candidates are assessed under the same controlled, consistent conditions, ensuring a fair and reliable process.

"We commit to providing support to our candidates where this does not compromise the exam process and can be reasonably accommodated by APC," said Clark.

"This change is designed with the best interests of our candidates in mind, ensuring that the exam process remains robust, secure, and fair for everyone involved."

The APC's Intern Written exam tests the skills, experience, knowledge and understanding of pharmacy interns.

It is a vital step in the process of interns becoming fully registered pharmacists in Australia.

To sit the exam, interns must be provisionally registered with the Pharmacy Board of Australia (PharmBA), or registered in the past.

They must have completed at least 75% of the required supervised practice hours for registration or have completed the hours by the exam date.

It costs \$750 per attempt to sit the exam. *JHM*

## The air that kills

HEALTH and climate advocacy organisation, Healthy Futures, is calling on the Federal Government to take action to curb methane emissions as a key cause of life-threatening health conditions.

The organisation yesterday released a report into the "alarming consequences" of methane emissions on public health as a "dense invisible smog that blankets the land".

The report outlines the impact methane has on the severity and frequency of heat-related illnesses, air pollution, asthma and bronchitis exacerbation and food security.

## Pertussis rise

QUEENSLAND has hit a record number of whooping cough (pertussis) cases this year, with nearly 42,000 cases recorded up to 8 Nov.

According to the Immunisation Foundation of Australia (IFA), numbers could surpass 45,000 by the end of the year.

The major spike is in school-aged children, with 40% of cases recorded in 10- to 14-year-olds.

This year, 12,500 infections have been recorded, up from 549 cases at the same time last year, according to data from Queensland Health.

"This epidemic is the worst year for whooping cough in Queensland on record," Chief Health Officer John Gerrard told AAP.

"The surge in cases we've seen since February this year is continuing unabated ... if anything, it's getting worse."

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## Awards expose big tobacco allies

**THE** AMA and Australian Council of Smoking and Health (ACOSH) have awarded the Australian Association of Convenience Stores (AACS) the Dirty Ashtray Award for refusing to disclose their industry funding to a Senate Inquiry consultation on new tobacco laws.

AACS members include three tobacco companies, while it has campaigned against world-leading public health measures on smoking and vaping for over two decades.

The Exploding Vape Award went to the Australian Taxpayers Alliance for their 'Bust the Black-Market' campaign, which pushed an industry agenda for regulating consumer sales of vapes 'just like cigarettes and alcohol', while ignoring public health recommendations and claiming to be grassroots campaigners.

"All you need to do is spend one day at my GP clinic to realise tobacco and nicotine are still having disastrous effects on Australians' health," AMA President Dr Danielle McMullen said.

"In particular, young patients who have developed a nicotine addiction through vapes, shows the industry is unfortunately alive and well, and reinforces why these awards are needed as much now as they were [when started] 30 years ago."

## New virtual consult initiative

**THE** NSW Government has announced it will open a new free, virtual care service for adults in Sydney next month.

VirtualADULTS will provide virtual urgent care via video consultation to tens of thousands of people across NSW for illnesses or injuries such as coughs, colds, fevers or flu; respiratory conditions; vomiting and diarrhoea; minor infections; and rashes.

The initiative is projected to save 85,000 people from an unnecessary wait in an emergency department every year.

People can access the service by phoning HealthDirect on 1800 022 222 where they will speak to a registered nurse who can assess their condition and, if appropriate, be referred to VirtualADULTS.

VirtualADULTS will use video conferencing to connect patients with a multidisciplinary team of clinicians, including doctors and nurses, providing advice where clinically appropriate.

It will initially be available from 8am-4.30pm Monday to Friday, and extended to 8am to 10pm Monday



to Sunday from February 2025.

The launch of VirtualADULTS follows the successful statewide expansion of the NSW virtualKIDS Urgent Care Service, which has provided services to more than 10,000 children across NSW.

"Virtual care has made tremendous progress, accelerated in part by the pandemic, and it is becoming an increasingly embraced model of care, allowing people to be treated from the comfort of home," said NSW Health Minister Ryan Park. *KB*

## Genetic propensity to T2D in South Asians

**A NEW** study has revealed the genetic drivers of early onset type 2 diabetes (T2D) in people of South Asian descent.

Using data from the UK Genes & Health Cohort, researchers compared the genetics profiles of tens of thousands of volunteers with and without T2D.

The younger age of onset in

South Asians is strongly linked to genetic signatures that lead to both lower insulin production and unfavourable patterns of body fat distribution and obesity.

The researchers hope the findings will lead to more precise treatments that reduce the development of complications.

Read the full study [HERE](#).

## New sisterhood

**THE** Priceline Sisterhood Foundation, which has raised over \$10 million in the past 13 years, is expanding its impact with a renewed focus on the health and wellbeing of Australian women and girls.

Now rebranded as the more brand-agnostic Sisterhood Foundation and with a refreshed visual identity, the organisation has announced its new mission to address the unique health challenges faced by women and girls across the country.

The foundation's updated purpose emphasises building capability in frontline charities to better support women's health, from education to mental health and heart health.

The Sisterhood Foundation has introduced four new charity partners including Jean Hailes for Women's Health, Smiling Mind, Her Heart and Share the Dignity.

These organisations join the Sisterhood Foundation's longstanding partners such as Motherless Daughters, PANDA, Fitted for Work and SisterWorks.

Wesfarmers Health Managing Director and Sisterhood Foundation Chair, Emily Amos, said she is excited about the future of the organisation.

"This exciting next chapter will further strengthen the Sisterhood's impact and empower our new and existing [partners] to keep growing and supporting women and girls



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### Dispensary Corner

**IF YOU** think sexual desire is linked with testosterone levels, you aren't alone.

A quick search on the internet reveals any number of supplements claiming to elevate T (that's what they call it), resulting in a corresponding increase in sex drive for both men and women.

Unfortunately for purveyors of "T boosters" (yep, it's a thing), a new international study has put the kybosh on that.

Researchers collected daily measures of both T and sexual desire for a month in a sample of 41 men and found no evidence of greater desire when T levels were higher.

However, there was an interesting finding in the romance department: when socialising with potential romantic partners, the men reported greater courtship efforts on days when their testosterone was elevated.

The effect was particularly marked for single men, with higher overall T levels and more interactions with potential mates, leading the team to suggest that T promotes mate-attraction efforts among unpartnered men.

Meanwhile in partnered men, "effort" shifts towards "pair bonding and paternal provisioning".

While testosterone therapy provides some libidinal benefits for men with low T, the researchers said their findings argue against its usefulness for treating low sexual desire in men with normal T levels.

## PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### Alcon Product Discontinuation from November 2024

From mid-November 2024, **GenTeal® Gel Moisturising Eye Gel** and **HPMC PAA Moisturising Eye Gel** will no longer be available to sell in Australia.

To help make the transition easier for those patients and practitioners currently using or prescribing these discontinuing products, practitioners could consider preservative-free **Poly Visc® Lubricating Eye Ointment**, which is also listed on the PBS. Since Poly Visc® is a high-viscosity ointment, it should be noted that patients may experience a different on-eye sensation between GenTeal® Gel Moisturising Eye Gel, HPMC PAA Moisturising Eye Gel and Poly Visc® Lubricating Eye Ointment.



**Stocklist:** For details on orders, please contact Alcon Customer Service on 1800 224 153

**RRP:** \$10.99

**Website:** [www.myalcon.com/au/professional/ocular-health/other-dry-eye-products](http://www.myalcon.com/au/professional/ocular-health/other-dry-eye-products)

### Hartley's Gripe Water



Hartley's Gripe Water is a natural blend of herbal ingredients of dill seed oil, peppermint oil, chamomile and coriander oil. These herbs have been used safely in commercial infant preparations for many years.

It helps reduce the occurrence of excess intestinal wind and gas in infants, and helps relieve the symptoms of infant colic.

It does not contain artificial sweeteners.

**Supplier:** Available from Symbion, Sigma & API. Contact your Clear Sales representative on 1800 640 043 for special deals.

**RRP:** \$10.51 - 200ml bottle

**Website:** [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

# Do The Math(s)!

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