

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, a cover wrap from **Zefir Vape**, plus full pages from:

- Willach Pharmacy
- Glucojel

Top place to work

SANDOZ has been ranked second by Great Place to Work ANZ amongst the Best Workplaces in Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals in Australia in 2024.

The award comes as Sandoz prepares for its pipeline of 25 biosimilars and over 400 generics globally.

Sigma offers line to ACCC

THE ACCC is seeking public feedback on a proposed court-enforceable undertaking by Sigma Healthcare Limited concerning its acquisition of Chemist Warehouse Group Holdings (**PD** breaking news).

Sigma, has offered the undertaking in response to competition concerns raised by the ACCC in Jun.

These concerns included potential harm to pharmacies supplied by Sigma and the possibility of Chemist Warehouse accessing competitors' data.

To address these issues, Sigma proposed several measures.

It agreed not to prevent franchisees who entered into contracts before Jan from terminating agreements for three years.

Sigma will also waive fees if these franchisees choose to leave.

Additionally, restrictions will be placed on Sigma's collection and use of patient data for three years.

Sigma has further committed to remaining a pharmaceutical wholesaler under the



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Commonwealth Government's Community Service Obligation (CSO) for at least five years, ensuring consistent service standards, the statement added.

ACCC Chair Gina Cass-Gottlieb said, "while the ACCC is publicly consulting on this undertaking, this should not be interpreted to mean that this or any other form of undertaking will ultimately be accepted by the ACCC".

The regulatory body is continuing to assess the acquisition's impact on competition impact.

The ACCC invites submissions on the proposed undertaking by 14 Oct, and parties can contact the ACCC via SigmaCWG@acc.gov.au. JG

Zantac is back

ZANTAC (ranitidine) 150mg and Zantac Double Strength 300mg tablets will be available again in major Australian pharmacies and grocery outlets soon.

The heartburn and acid indigestion drug was previously removed in 2019 due to concerns over nitrosamine impurities.

Rethink dispensary

WILLACH Consis.C provides the latest in robotic automation for a more efficient dispensary set-up and to speed up the loading of medicines - see **page three**.

Spread the joy

GLUCOJEL is running a major campaign for a \$10k giveaway, so stock your shelves well with the popular product to attract more customers instore.

Learn more on the **back page**.

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Dispensary Corner

SCIENTISTS have discovered a surprising new ally for farmers: human urine, according to a study in *ScienceDaily*.

According to researchers from the University of Birmingham and L'Institut Agro Montpellier, soil bacteria seems to handle urine just as well as synthetic fertilisers.

Turns out, our humble bathroom break could be a goldmine for agriculture.

In their study, the researchers put stored urine onto spinach crops (talk about recycling) and found that it had little effect on soil bacterial communities.

The soil didn't revolt, the pH stayed steady, and the bacteria continued their business as usual.

Even when they increased the dosage, the soil remained resilient, though there was a slight uptick in the nitrifying and denitrifying bacteria - translation: more nitrogen oxides could be emitted.

Manon Rumeau, one of the researchers, said, "our study shows that recycling human urine could enhance sustainability and cut down on synthetic fertilisers".

In short, your trip to the bathroom might one day feed your salad.

With urine composed of 95% water and 5% nutrients, the future of farming could involve us in ways we never imagined.

Just remember to flush...or maybe don't.



Pharmacist's role in vapes

STARTING from today, legislative changes empower pharmacists to prescribe vapes (20mg/ml and under) as Schedule 3 medicines.

However, higher dose vapes and nicotine liquids for mixing will still remain classified as Schedule 4, requiring prescriptions from a doctor or a nurse practitioner.

For anyone under 18, all vaping products will require a script, regardless of nicotine concentration.

The govt's updated framework aims to enhance pharmacists' role in smoking cessation efforts, allowing them to provide both counselling and prescriptions.

The approach is expected to improve long-term health outcomes for individuals seeking to reduce nicotine dependence.

Pharmacists will also play a critical role in guiding patients with higher

nicotine needs, as these individuals will still need healthcare providers for S4 products.

The new TGA standards mandate that notified vaping products comply with specific packaging and ingredient guidelines, including limiting flavours to menthol, mint, and tobacco, with disposable vapes phased out.

Pharmacists can verify TGA-notified products via its website, though no vapes are currently registered on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

One product in compliance with TGO 110 standards is Zefir Vape, which offers step-down nicotine dosing, and is available in three strengths (40mg/ml, 20mg/ml, and nicotine-free).

It can be ordered through major pharmaceutical distributors. *JG*

Twomey re-elected

PROFESSOR Trent Twomey, current National President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, was re-elected to a second term yesterday (**PD** breaking news).

Twomey noted the Guild's early preparations for the Ninth Community Pharmacy Agreement, set for 2029.

He also highlighted the work on the 2035 Community Pharmacy Plan, to be developed within the first 100 days of the new National Council.

He has outlined plans to evolve community pharmacy focusing on holistic health hubs, and emphasised the sector's shift towards supporting long-term condition management and providing everyday health treatments as patients face rising living costs.

New PBS listing

THE new Hadlima (adalimumab) 40mg/0.4mL formulation will be listed on the PBS from 01 Oct.

Organon Australia has launched this high concentration, citrate-free formulation for treating chronic inflammatory conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, and ulcerative colitis.

The updated biosimilar reduces the injection volume by 50% and eliminates citrate buffers, known to cause injection-site pain.

Additionally, it can be stored at room temperature for up to 31 days, offering improved convenience for patients.

Hadlima is available in autoinjector and pre-filled syringe formats.



Guild Update

APP2025 is free for students

IN 2025, for the first time ever, pharmacy students with a valid student ID can attend the Australian Pharmacy Professional (APP) conference and trade exhibition for free.

APP2025 will be held from 20-22 Mar at the Gold Coast Convention Centre, Qld, and is expected to see a larger attendance than this year's APP conference.

The free full registration allows pharmacy students to attend the welcome reception, conference sessions, unlimited entry to the trade exhibition hall, and various online post-session recordings.

It will also cover lunch and morning and afternoon teas at the convention centre.

Pharmacy students who take advantage of the complimentary full registration will have the opportunity to network with pharmacists and other students from all over the country.

The conference sessions will expand students' knowledge, by listening to industry experts, and exploring Australia's largest pharmacy trade exhibition.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia's three-day event brings the sector together to network, upskill and grow professionally.

APP is the signature event in the profession's calendar, and with free registration, what have you got to lose?

To secure a spot, **CLICK HERE**.

Time to rethink your dispensary set-up?

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