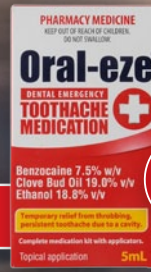


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Today's issue of PD

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

- Chemsave
- Novapharm

Novella-1 is here

NOVA Pharmaceuticals' new emergency contraception, Novella-1, is available now.

Find out more by visiting the back page of Pharmacy Daily.

Assistants Day

TODAY, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is celebrating Pharmacy Technicians and Assistants Day, recognising dedicated pharmacy support staff around the country.

PSA National President, Associate Professor Fei Sim emphasised the vital role played by pharmacy assistants and technicians.

"The clinical support that technicians and assistants provide allows pharmacists to extend their focus to undertaking clinical roles and practising to their full and top of scope," Sim said.

"Their contribution to the overall team capacity and efficiency is invaluable."

Sim also encouraged all pharmacists to take the time today to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of their technicians and assistants.

Prac payments campaign

IN A push to ensure equitable access to financial support, the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) is spearheading a new campaign to expand the government's proposed student placement payment program beyond nursing and medical degrees.

NAPSA President Sebastian Harper told Pharmacy Daily he spoke to the Senate committee examining the *Universities Accord (Student Support and Other Measures) Bill 2024*, advocating for the inclusion of a range of allied health degrees, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech pathology.

"We're really proud to be championing the cause of other allied health groups," said Harper.

"There's no other national health student body like NAPSA for all these other degrees, so we're stepping up to make sure their voices are heard."

NAPSA's campaign aims to secure the inclusion of all health degrees before Jul next year, when the proposed bill comes into effect.

The Senate committee's report acknowledged the need for broader inclusion, specifically mentioning the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's submission.

However, the government's current plan is to initially limit the payments to nursing, social work, and midwifery students, with a potential review after 12 months.

Harper expressed concerns about the government's timeline, noting that a year would not provide sufficient data to evaluate the

program's effectiveness.

"It's just not going to show much as you need five years or so to see how the program has affected students and degrees," he said.

An interesting insight from Harper is the potential long-term impact of NAPSA's involvement in the legislative process which has led the student body into "conducting proper advocacy".

Harper highlighted the similarities in placement requirements and that there are a high proportion of women in pharmacy and allied fields as key reasons for inclusion.

These are the same reasons that the government stated when introducing prac payments for nurses, midwives, and social workers earlier this year.

"Most of them have similar requirements, and are doing hundreds or even thousands of hours of unpaid placement."

"So, a lot of these other degrees also hit that criteria," he explained.

With growing momentum and support from allied health groups, NAPSA remains cautiously optimistic about its success.

Harper noted that the government has not yet shown a willingness to expand the program, but he believes that persistent advocacy can lead to positive change, as it has in the past.

"It might be an uphill battle, but it's always an uphill battle to get change in Australia.

"It does happen, and it's happened before.

"Good campaigns and advocacy from groups like NAPSA can actually get change," he concluded. JG

Don't miss out

CHEMSAVE is highlighting the significant savings available with its limited-time offer for pharmacy owners.

Learn more about the low monthly membership fee on page three.

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Pharmacy Technician & Assistants Day 2024

Thank you for all you do.



Today we celebrate our Pharmacy Technicians and Assistants - essential members of the health care workforce, supporting the delivery of care in communities across Australia.

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Dispensary Corner

CRIMINALS have come up with a myriad of ways to try to hide drugs, but one drug dealer in Portland, Oregon, took the "hidden in plain sight" approach.

After stopping a driver and passenger inside an allegedly stolen vehicle, police discovered a stash of drugs alongside cash and a loaded firearm in a bag ironically labelled 'definitely not a bag full of drugs'.

Despite the claim on the vanity case, more than 10g of fentanyl and meth was reportedly found inside, leading to the arrest of a man and a woman.

The pair now face charges of drug possession and possession of a stolen vehicle.

The Portland Police Bureau East Precinct shared an image of the confiscated haul on X (formerly Twitter).



CW QR payments

CHEMIST Warehouse has introduced the option to pay by QR code, in a bid to cut transaction fees charged by Visa and Mastercard.

Thanks to the pharmacy retail chain's new partnership with fintech firm Waave, shoppers can pay directly from their banks at checkout by scanning a code and entering their account details.

Spontan's study success

LTR Pharma Limited has announced the successful completion of its pivotal clinical study for Spontan, an intranasal formulation of vardenafil for erectile dysfunction (ED).

The study demonstrated Spontan's rapid onset of action and enhanced bioavailability compared to traditional oral ED medications, positioning it as a potential disruptor in the global ED market.

Key findings include a 470% faster absorption rate, with Spontan reaching peak plasma concentration in 12 minutes, compared to 56 minutes for oral tablets.

Despite using half the dose, Spontan showed 111.8% dose-normalised bioavailability and a 155.6% higher peak concentration, suggesting comparable efficacy with a lower dose.

The formulation was well-tolerated, with no serious adverse events reported.

Chief Medical Officer Prof Geoffrey Strange noted the potential of Spontan to address unmet needs in ED treatment, highlighting its speed of absorption and favourable safety profile.



"These results offer patients a more spontaneous and convenient therapeutic option," he said.

The study, involving 18 healthy adult males, compared Spontan to oral tablets over 24 hours, confirming its faster onset and comparable bioavailability.

Chairman Lee Rodne added, "these results position LTR Pharma to advance commercialisation efforts, regulatory discussions, and strategic partnerships, reinforcing our commitment to delivering innovative solutions for patients". JG

Seizure safety highlighted this month

FOR Seizure Safety Month this Oct, Epilepsy WA is urging people to take seizure risk reduction seriously, highlighting the 300+ Australians who die each year from epilepsy-related causes.

More than half of those deaths are due to Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP), where a person living with epilepsy dies without warning and the post-mortem fails to establish another cause of death.

The community can take action by learning seizure first aid, while

people with epilepsy should take medications as prescribed, avoid known seizure triggers, and ensure they get adequate sleep.

"One in 25 people will be diagnosed with epilepsy, and the number who lose their lives to this chronic condition is totally unacceptable," said Epilepsy WA CEO, Emma Buitendag.

Additionally, for SUDEP Action Day tomorrow, Perth Railway station will shine purple in honour of those who have lost their lives to the condition.

Guild Update

Save and register now for APP2025 conference

DON'T miss your chance to secure the best deal on full registration for the 2025 Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition (APP2025).

With early registration numbers spiking, time is running out to be among the first 200 delegates to save even more on the full conference registration.

By booking early, you can save up to \$120 on your registration.

Plus, the first 200 registrants can enjoy an extra 10% off the earlybird price by entering the code FIRST200 at checkout.

This is your final opportunity to take advantage of these incredible savings.

APP2025, taking place on the Gold Coast from 20-22 Mar 2025, is set to be a highlight.

The pharmacy conference features a comprehensive three-day education program, pre-conference workshops, 450+ trade stands, and social events.

The conference theme, 'Unlocking Your Opportunities', promises to inspire delegates to make the most of the new landscape in pharmacy following the significant changes of 2024.

Register today to unlock your opportunities at APP2025 - visit the conference website appconference.com.

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