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Today's issue of PD

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

- Dispense Assist
- Independent Pharmacies of Australia Group
- Team FTF

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DISPENSE Assist is a low-cost staffing solution with dispensary technicians available 24/7 at rates as low as \$6.37 per hour, for services that include compounding and DAAs, among others.

To learn more about the free trial, head to **page three**.

Business support

INDEPENDENT Pharmacies of Australia (IPA) Group is highlighting how it can support you when it comes to managing your business.

Contact IPA and find out how its strategies can streamline your pharmacy's operations. See more on the **page four**.

IPA unveils strategy, honours suppliers



THE Independent Pharmacies of Australia Group (IPA) revealed strategic plans for 2025 at its Impact Partnership Forum and held its awards gala in Melbourne last week.

The group is emphasising its ongoing commitment to unifying independent pharmacies and simplifying collaboration with supplier partners.

IPA's strategy aims to amplify the unique value independent pharmacies bring to communities around the nation.

Steven Kastrinakis, Managing Director of IPA, highlighted the importance of its partnerships

and said, "our role is to empower our member pharmacies with tailored support to sustain their unique needs and those of their customers."

The evening also featured the group's Impact Awards, which celebrates excellence in supplier collaboration in various categories.

Notable winners included Pharmicare, which received the Pioneering Award for innovation, and API Wholesale, recognised for its reliability and transparency with the Accountability Award.

Arrotex won the Collaboration Award, and Total Beauty Network was honoured with the group's

Tenacity accolade.

Reckitt Health's Briony Pascoe was awarded Account Manager of the Year, while the pharma company also took home Overall Supplier of the Year.

Pfizer received recognition in Professional Services for its collaborative efforts in health.

The annual forum also introduced the IPA Consumer Strategy, a new initiative aimed at driving sales growth through a national marketing campaign, reflecting IPA's dedication to supporting independent pharmacies and enhancing community health outcomes. *JG*

Pictured: Steven Kastrinakis and the winners of the Overall Supplier of the Year - Reckitt Health's Anna Vuong and Natasha Beck.

NVP stock tool

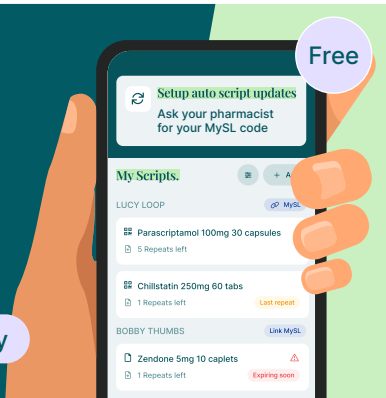
TEAM FTF is providing everything community pharmacies need to guide patients, and maintain stock of a medicinal nicotine vape product (NVP).

Head to the **back page** to learn more about the new category management tool.



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Dispensary Corner

YOUR marriage might come with a surprise health risk - especially if your spouse's heart is acting up.

Published in *JAMA Neurology*, a new study reveals that people are more likely to develop dementia if their spouse has a heart-related incident, like a heart attack or stroke.

Researchers followed the health of over 90,000 Japanese seniors aged 65+, with about half having a spouse who'd suffered a cardiovascular event.

Two years later, those with a heart-troubled partner were more likely to develop Alzheimer's themselves.

Experts believe the reasons are multifaceted: the shock of witnessing the heart event, lifestyle changes to help their partner stay healthy, and the huge stress of wondering if they will ever be able to mow the lawn again.

Because let's face it, being the health manager of your spouse comes with its own burdens - like trying to convince them to eat a salad and their greens.

The study, which involved mostly men, suggests that gender could play a role in this unhealthy relationship dynamic, with more research needed.

In the meantime, beware when one spouse's heart goes haywire - the other might just lose their mind.



Tas vape sale restrictions

THE Tasmanian Government announced on Fri new tighter regulations restricting the sale of nicotine-containing vapes to patients with a prescription from a GP or nurse practitioner.

The change effectively implements the previously attempted Commonwealth reform to classify such products as Schedule 4 (Prescription Only), which was supported by community pharmacists across the country and 63 patient, healthcare and school groups.

The state's Pharmacy Guild of Australia branch has welcomed the decision, emphasising its potential to safeguard public health, particularly among young Tasmanians who are disproportionately affected by vape usage.

"This is a common-sense decision to protect the health of Tasmanians," commented Tasmanian Guild President Helen O'Byrne (pictured), who attended the announcement alongside Health Minister Guy Barnett.

The reforms align with the stance of 63 patient, healthcare,



and school groups, including the Australian Medical Association and the Cancer Council, which have supported tighter vape regulations.

O'Byrne highlighted concerns over the safety and efficacy of e-cigarette products, stating, "no vaping product has been approved by the TGA based on its safety, efficacy, or performance".

The new regulation is set to alleviate the burden on community pharmacists who, from 01 Oct 2024, will be the only suppliers of nicotine-containing vapes under prescription, a responsibility the Guild has consistently opposed (PD 28 Jun). JG

Third tranche of 60DD meds revealed

THE Federal Government has announced the third tranche of 60-day dispensing (60DD) reforms covering around 300 drugs for diverse conditions such as asthma, anxiety, depression, and Parkinson's disease.

The government stated yesterday that Australians will save more than \$140 million on over 15 million scripts in New South Wales; 88 million in Queensland on over nine million prescriptions; and \$118 million in Victoria on over 12 million scripts.

In Western Australia more than \$51 million will be saved on over five million scripts.

South Australians will claw back more than \$29 million on over three million scripts.

While in ACT more than \$11 million will be saved on over 1.2 million scripts; and NT will see over \$2.9 million spent less on 300,000 scripts.

Government data shows that to Jul this year, over 10 million scripts have been dispensed under the policy.

NT scope boost

THE Country Liberal Party has won the Northern Territory election, and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has praised the new government's commitment to expanding pharmacy services.

The initiative, through PSA's Pharmacy Scope of Practice program, will enable pharmacists to provide additional health services for up to 21 conditions, including the prescribing of treatment for uncomplicated urinary tract infections (UTIs) within the first 100 days of government.

PSA Northern Territory and South Australia Vice President, Colleen Niland, highlighted the benefits the move will bring to regional and rural communities.

"Empowering pharmacists to prescribe treatment for UTIs improves access to care and health outcomes across the Territory, especially in areas where healthcare services can be limited," explained Niland.

While PSA National President A/Prof Fei Sim said, "our health system is under pressure".

"The time is now to look at innovative models of care where the skill sets of all health professionals, including pharmacists, can be fully utilised to build overall health system capacity as we continue to support our population's health," added Sim.

PSA is encouraging pharmacists to complete the relevant training, including the online course 'Managing uncomplicated cystitis (urinary tract infection)', to ensure they are prepared to deliver the services in the community.



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