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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, the **September MIMS Update**, plus full pages from:

- Pointrs
- Wholelife Pharmacy & Healthfoods

Pointrs free trial

WITH over 5,000+ hotels and flights to explore, Pointrs is offering pharmacists ways to save on travel and 3.5 times more loyalty points than other providers - see **page three** for the free trial offer.

Scope to expand in NSW

IN A speech given last night at the opening of the Pharmacy Connect 2024 conference, NSW Health Minister Ryan Park announced that pharmacists will soon be able to treat several common health conditions under new government changes (**PD** breaking news).

According to a media statement from NSW Health, the reforms will allow appropriately trained pharmacists to treat acute conditions such as nausea and ear infections as part of permanent practice, as well as wound management, musculoskeletal pain and gastro-oesophageal reflux.

The expanded services may roll out as soon as 2026.

Additionally, the government will launch a pilot program in regional NSW within the next 12 months, where pharmacists will also be able to manage conditions like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

"Whether it's providing 10 million vaccinations during COVID or treating over 18,000 uncomplicated UTIs over the past year, pharmacists have shown that they are able to offer more of the everyday healthcare patients need," said David Heffernan, NSW Branch President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Grow your base

FOR business growth with a difference, consider joining WholeLife Pharmacy & Healthfoods, as it has strategies to increase your store's foot traffic.

See more on **page four**.

Guild of Australia.

"These changes will mean that patients aren't forced to present to hospital for an ear infection just because their GP can't see them."

Participating pharmacists will be required to complete additional training equivalent to a Graduate Certificate, spanning one year.

The changes are modelled after a similar pilot currently underway in North Queensland.

Pharmacists who completed the Qld pilot training will also be authorised to deliver selected services in NSW from Jan 2026. JG

New PSS award

PHARMACEUTICAL Defence Limited (PDL) is encouraging nominations for the inaugural Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS) John Coppock Pharmacist Wellbeing Award.

Sponsored by PDL, the award will honour an individual or team who has made a significant contribution to the wellbeing of pharmacy professionals, with the winner receiving \$2,500.

Deadline for nominations is 15 Sep - to find out more, **CLICK HERE**.

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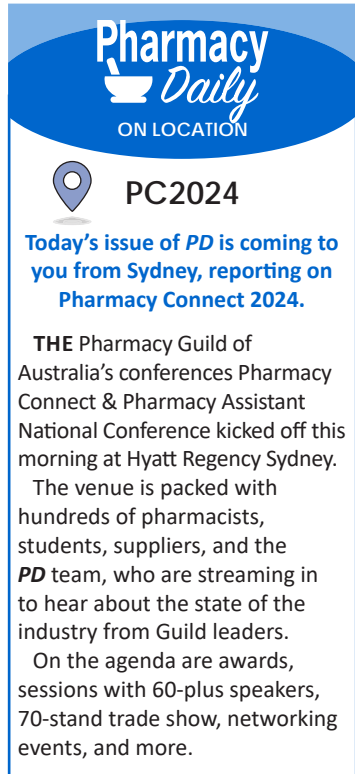
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Pharmacy Daily ON LOCATION

PC2024

Today's issue of PD is coming to you from Sydney, reporting on **Pharmacy Connect 2024**.

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia's conferences Pharmacy Connect & Pharmacy Assistant National Conference kicked off this morning at Hyatt Regency Sydney. The venue is packed with hundreds of pharmacists, students, suppliers, and the **PD** team, who are streaming in to hear about the state of the industry from Guild leaders. On the agenda are awards, sessions with 60-plus speakers, 70-stand trade show, networking events, and more.



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Dispensary Corner

ELLE Macpherson shocked everyone, including 32 doctors, when she refused chemotherapy after being diagnosed with breast cancer seven years ago, reported *SMH*.

Now 60 and in "clinical remission", the supermodel details her journey in her memoir, *Life, Lessons, and Learning to Trust Yourself*.

Macpherson, known for her holistic lifestyle, rejected conventional treatments like chemotherapy, radiation, and hormone therapy.

Instead, she embarked on what she called an "intuitive, heart-led holistic approach" in Phoenix, Arizona, enlisting a small army of healers: a naturopath, holistic dentist, osteopath, chiropractor, and even two therapists.

"People thought I was crazy," she admitted, while recounting her days spent praying, meditating, and focusing on her wellness regimen.

Her family had mixed feelings: her son Flynn wasn't thrilled with his mum's decision.

Her younger son Cy, however, cheered her on, calling chemotherapy "a kiss of death".

Her ex, Arpad 'Arki' Busson, praised her "courage" for defying medical advice.

Macpherson's approach was as bold as her runway days.

"Trusting my inner self was harder than anything," she said.

Dr David Robert Grimes, an author and cancer researcher, called her revelation "incredibly irresponsible as holistic therapy is NOT valid treatment for breast cancer".

Qld's new Pharmacy Business Council

THE Queensland Govt has set up the first-ever independent Pharmacy Business Ownership Council responsible for regulating business ownership under the new Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2024 (*PD* 01 Dec 2023).

The Council's duties started on 01 Sep, marking a significant shift from regulation by Queensland Health to independent oversight.

Appointed to the Council are 10 members with expertise in pharmacy business ownership, financial management, governance, and law.

Cameron Foote, a pharmacy business owner and registered pharmacist, serves as Chair, while Inmaculada Beaumont, a chartered certified accountant with extensive experience in financial oversight, is the Deputy Chair.

Other members include pharmacists Emma Conway, Amy Ford, Adam Rodger, Brett Simmonds, (Adela) Ting Wei Tsang, Shana Valentine, Fiona Watson,



and Vassillis Zeniou.

Together, they bring a wealth of experience in pharmacy operations, financial management, and culturally appropriate healthcare services.

The new Council aims to enhance licensing and enforcement of pharmacy ownership rules, aligning with practices in other states and ensuring pharmacies are owned and operated by qualified individuals who prioritise quality services and professional standards.

The Council will implement a new licensing framework by late 2025, replacing outdated 2001 legislation.

This framework will modernise the regulation of pharmacy business ownership, providing a

robust system to assess business licence applications and ensure compliance with the new laws.

Qld Minister for Health, Shannon Fentiman, expressed confidence in the new Council, saying, "the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2024 ensures that pharmacy businesses are operated with high standards of professional practice".

"This Council will enforce the legislation, aligning Queensland's regulations with national standards," she commented.

The formation of the Council follows extensive consultation with stakeholders, including the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

Fentiman added the government's initiative reflects a commitment to modernising pharmacy ownership regulations, "ensuring that qualified professionals with a deep understanding of industry practices manage pharmacy businesses, ultimately enhancing patient care and safety across Queensland". *JG*

Low-carb, high-fat diet adds to T2D risk



A 17-YEAR study of nearly 40,000 Melburnians has found that low-carbohydrate, high-fat diets may increase the risk of developing type 2 diabetes (T2D) by 20%.

The research, led by Monash University and RMIT University and published in *Diabetes and Metabolic Syndrome*, challenges the trend of low-carb diets often used for weight loss.

The study showed that participants whose diet included

38% carbohydrates had a 20% higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes compared to those with 55% carbohydrates.

The increased risk was linked to higher obesity rates among low-carb dieters due to increased eating of fats.

Lead researcher distinguished Prof Barbora de Courten, together with PhD student Robel Kabthymmer, emphasised the need for a balanced diet, such as the Mediterranean diet, which includes high-fibre carbohydrates, healthy fats, legumes and proteins to help prevent type 2 diabetes.

To learn more, **CLICK HERE**.

\$3m for kids' care

THE Centre of Research Excellence in Paediatric Palliative Care in Australia has been funded with a \$3 million grant from the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council.

"This is very welcome news and will help support better planning and service delivery for the estimated 40,000 children who could benefit from palliative care each year," said Camilla Rowland, Chief Executive Officer, Palliative Care Australia.

The new centre will be led by the Queensland University of Technology.

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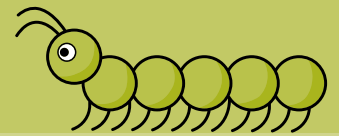
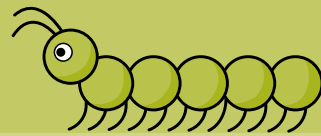
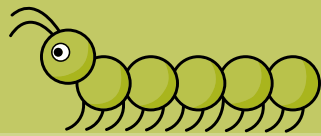
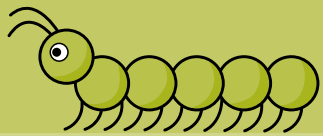
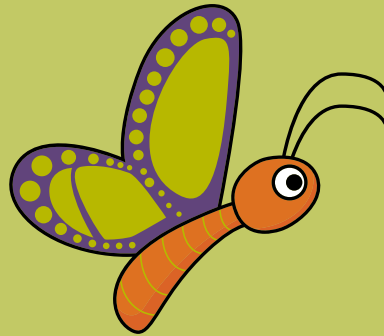


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New Products

- **Bulevirtide (acetate) (Hepcludex)** is a 47-amino acid, N-terminally myristoylated, HBV-L-protein derived, synthesized lipopeptide that blocks the entry of HBV and hepatitis delta virus (HDV) into hepatocytes by binding to and inactivating the essential HBV and HDV entry receptor, NTCP. *Hepcludex is indicated for the treatment of chronic HDV infection in adults with compensated liver disease.* Hepcludex powder for injection contains bulevirtide 2 mg and is available in packs of 30 vials.
- **Icosapent ethyl (Vazkepa)** is a stable ethyl ester of the omega-3 fatty acid, eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA). The mechanisms of action contributing to reduction of cardiovascular events with icosapent ethyl are not completely understood. The mechanisms are likely multi-factorial including improved lipoprotein profile with reduction of triglyceride (TG)-rich lipoproteins, anti-inflammatory, and antioxidant effects, reduction of macrophage accumulation, improved endothelial function, increased fibrous cap thickness/stability, and antiplatelet effects. Icosapent ethyl improves the lipoprotein profile by suppressing cholesterol-, fatty acid- and TG-synthesising enzymes, increasing fatty acid β -oxidation, and reducing microsomal TG transfer protein, resulting in decreased hepatic TG and very low-density lipoprotein (VLDL) synthesis and release. Icosapent ethyl also increases expression of lipoprotein lipase leading to increased TG removal from circulating VLDL and chylomicron particles. However, TG reduction appears to provide only a minor contribution to the reduction in risk of cardiovascular events with icosapent ethyl. *Vazkepa is indicated to reduce the risk of cardiovascular events in adult statin-treated patients at high cardiovascular risk with elevated TG (≥ 1.7 mmol/L) and either established cardiovascular disease; or diabetes and at least one other cardiovascular risk factor.* Vazkepa is contraindicated in patients with hypersensitivity to soya. Vazkepa capsules contain icosapent ethyl 998 mg and are available in packs of 120.

New Presentation

- **Atezolizumab (Tecentriq SC)** is now available as solution for subcutaneous injection containing atezolizumab 1875 mg/15 mL in packs of 1 vial.

New Indications

- **Ceftolozane (sulfate) and tazobactam (sodium) (Zerbaxa)** is now also indicated for the treatment of paediatric (birth to less than 18 years of age) patients with complicated intra-abdominal infections in combination with metronidazole and complicated urinary tract infections including pyelonephritis, caused by designated susceptible microorganisms.
- **Pembrolizumab (rch) (Keytruda)** is now also indicated in combination with platinum containing chemotherapy as neoadjuvant treatment, and then continued as monotherapy as adjuvant treatment for patients with resectable Stage II, IIIA, or IIIB (T3-4N2) NSCLC; and in combination with gemcitabine and cisplatin for the treatment of patients with locally advanced unresectable or metastatic biliary tract carcinoma.

New Contraindications

- **Atazanavir (Reyataz)** is now contraindicated for concomitant use with irinotecan and drugs that are strong inducers of CYP3A4.
- **Colistin (as colistimethate sodium) (Colistin Link)** is now contraindicated in patients with myasthenia gravis.
- **Dorzolamide (hydrochloride) (Trusopt)** is now contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment ($\text{CrCl} < 30$ mL/min) or with hyperchloremic acidosis.

Safety Related Changes

- **Influenza virus (inactivated, surface Ag) quadrivalent vaccine (Influvac Tetra)** is no longer contraindicated in patients with hypersensitivity to egg protein.
- **Ritonavir (Norvir)** is no longer contraindicated for concomitant use with piroxicam.

This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.