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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature, plus a full page from **Dispense Assist** and the **April MIMS Update**.

Dispensary help

DISPENSE Assist is a low-cost staffing solution with dispensary technicians available 24/7, for services that include compounding, DAAs and any other required tasks - see **page five**.

Send us your pollie pics

WITH election campaigning in full swing, we'd love to hear about the local candidates who have visited your pharmacy. Send photos and an account of what took place to info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

\$1.1m health literacy grant for osteoporosis

A **\$1.1 million** consumer health literacy grant has been awarded to a healthcare collaboration between Healthily, Fred IT Group, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and Healthy Bones Australia.

The Department of Health and Aged Care funding will see the codesign and delivery of evidence-based health literacy resource packages tailored to meet the diverse needs of patients.

By integrating Healthily's patient education platform, GoShare, and Fred IT Group's leading pharmacy dispensing software, Fred Dispense Plus, people with osteoporosis will receive the resource packages by SMS when their medication is dispensed.

In providing patients with timely, high-quality medicines information, the project aims to improve medication health literacy, with a reduction in fracture risks and improved health outcomes among people with osteoporosis.

The project will target 30,000 people who have been prescribed



osteoporosis medications through 500 participating pharmacies over 12 months.

"We know that poor medication adherence is a key factor in osteoporosis management, leading to increased risk of fractures and poorer long-term health outcomes for patients," said Tina Campbell, CEO of Healthily.

"By providing easy-to-understand resources at the point of dispensing, we are ensuring that patients, particularly those from CALD communities, have the knowledge they need to manage their condition effectively and improve their adherence to prescribed osteoporosis treatments."

Paul Naismith, CEO of Fred IT Group, added, "This collaboration is an excellent example of how technology can play a key role in improving health."

"By automating the distribution of resources through community pharmacies, we are making it easier for patients to access the

information they need to manage their osteoporosis and take their medications as prescribed, with the support of their pharmacist.

"This solution ensures that all patients, regardless of background, are supported in their journey to better bone health." *KB*

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Medicines spared in Trump tariffs

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appear to have been granted a surprise exemption from US president Donald Trump's reciprocal tariff agenda.

In declaring that foreign trade and economic practices have created "a national emergency", Trump issued an order today to impose "responsive tariffs to strengthen the international economic position of the US and protect American workers".

However, the fears of pharmaceutical companies that tariffs would drastically affect the global supply chain and that even more American patients will be unable to afford already expensive medicines were not borne out.

A "fact sheet" issued by the White House noted that some goods will not be subject to the reciprocal tariff, including pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, lumber, energy and certain minerals.

However, Trump has previously said the pharma industry will face tariffs, so it may be only a temporary reprieve.

In announcing the tariffs, Trump said pharma companies are going to "come roaring back" to the US "because if they don't, they got a big tax to pay," suggesting the industry is not in the clear yet.

Australia exported \$1.35 billion of pharmaceuticals to the US in 2024, mainly blood products and vaccines.

Wesfarmers' new fulfillment centre



WESFARMERS Health has opened a new state-of-the-art fulfilment centre in Brisbane, with Federal Treasurer and local member Dr Jim Chalmers officially opening the site in Berrinba on Tue.

The centre will process and distribute over one million units of PBS medicines and other items to community pharmacies in Queensland and beyond every week, Wesfarmers Health stated.

The site was designed with efficiency and sustainability in mind, features cutting-edge warehouse technology, and operates on 100% renewable energy.

Doug Swan, Executive General Manager of Wesfarmers Health's Wholesale and Pharmacy Services business, API, said the new fulfilment centre is "a major investment to support more accessible and affordable health care for Australian patients".

"Access to medicines is unique in the Australian health system because those living in regional and remote areas receive exactly the

same service, at the same price, as those in big cities," Swan said.

"We're proud to open this new facility that will ensure community pharmacies from Coffs Harbour to Weipa and inland to Mount Isa can provide their patients with the essential medicines they need within 24-hours of ordering them," he concluded.

Addressing team members at the Berrinba facility, Chalmers said the Albanese Government is investing in cheaper medicines and continuity of supply for the benefit of patients across Australia.

"It's centres like these that ensure vital medicines get where they're needed quickly right across Queensland and the country," Chalmers said.

"Ensuring Australians have access to cheaper medicines is one of the most important ways the Albanese Government is helping people with the cost of living."

Pictured (L to R): Dr Jim Chalmers, Steve Cleaver, General Manager Supply Chain, and Doug Swan.

Guild Qld appoints second alternate

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Queensland, has announced the appointment of Manj Singh as the Branch's second Alternate National Councillor.

In welcoming the appointment, Acting Queensland Branch President Cate Whalan highlighted Singh's extensive experience, commitment to the profession and ability to engage with pharmacists at all levels.

"Manj is a dynamic pharmacist with a strong background in dispensary management, aged care services and dose administration packing," Whalan said.

"His collaborative leadership style and passion for mentoring make him an excellent representative for Queensland at a national level," said Whalan, who is looking forward to seeing the impact Singh will have.

Singh said he was honoured to take on the role and keen to advocate for community pharmacy at a national level.

"I'm excited and honoured to represent Queensland's community pharmacists and contribute to shaping policy at a national level," he said.

"This continues to be a critical time for our profession, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to strengthen our role in primary health care."

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Editor's Choice: Botanical ingredients power A'kin's Deep Clean range

A'KIN'S Deep Clean range is focused on clarifying and cleansing the hair and scalp, formulated with ingredients such as Australian aniseed myrtle, bamboo extract and AHAs, featuring a refreshing mandarin and ginger fragrance.

The range includes the Deep Clean Shampoo, Deep Clean Scalp Scrub and Deep Clean Conditioner.

All products in the collection are gentle and suitable for all hair types, particularly those with oily skin and experiencing dandruff.

According to the brand, consumers reported a 63% reduction of excess oil and visible flakes after just one use of the scalp scrub, while others noticed

a 51% reduction of pollution build-up after using the shampoo just once.

An Australian made and owned brand with more than 30 years' expertise, A'kin focuses on creating haircare with a simple, natural range of products formulated with botanical ingredients without any irritants.

Akin's products are all dermatologically tested and free from sulphates, parabens and artificial fragrances.

Available in pharmacies nationally including Chemist Warehouse, Direct Chemist Outlet, Cincotta Discount Chemist, Chempro and more.



Moroccanoil's new scent



ARGAN oil brand Moroccanoil has a fresh new fragrance range called Soleil de Tanger, featuring clementine, fresh ginger, warm tonka bean and neroli flower.

The scent is available in an ultra-light hydrating body lotion (RRP \$44.00) featuring Moroccanoil's signature antioxidant argan oil, as well as aloe leaf extract and tsubaki and evening primrose oils.

Also included in the collection is a shower gel (RRP \$31.50), which helps to hydrate and revitalise the skin while cleansing; an intensely hydrating hand cream (\$19) with hyaluronic acid, squalane and cocoa and shea butters, as well as a hand wash (RRP \$31.50)

Moroccanoil began a decade ago when co-founder Carmen Tal experienced a hair treatment featuring argan oil and loved its benefits.

The brand has since expanded across the world and into hair and body products, all featuring the nourishing oil.

Wella in its element

ELEMENTS is Wella's most gentle hair care line, formulated to promote healthy-feeling hair and scalp, with up to 99% natural-origin formulas.

The range includes the Elements Renewing Conditioner, Renewing Shampoo, Renewing Mask and Renewing Leave-in Spray.



Nude by Nature gets its glow on with new drops

AUSTRALIAN brand Nude by Nature has released the new Hydra Serum Mineral Radiance Drops (RRP \$34.95 each), blending cosmetics with skincare.

The lightweight serum enhances skin's natural glow while also providing hydration and antioxidant protection, thanks to ceramides and plant-based oils.

The Hydra Serum Mineral Radiance Drops can be used in a multitude of ways, either as a luminising serum before a moisturiser, a highlighter added to the highpoints of the face or mixed in with a foundation for a dewy finish.

Available in two colours, 01 Bronze and 02 Pearl.

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Beauty & Wellness
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Dispensary Corner

SMART bioelectronic implants, such as brain implants to control seizures, pacemakers and insulin pumps, offer the potential to revolutionise healthcare, with doctors able to remotely access them to monitor and adjust treatments.

But here's something you've probably never lost any sleep over - until now.

As these devices become more advanced, they also become more vulnerable to hacking, and the consequences could be life-threatening - an insulin overdose, a disrupted heart rhythm, or brain being ordered by a super villain to carry out dastardly deeds, for example.

Thankfully, help is at hand.

Rice University engineer Kaiyuan Yang and his team have developed a first-of-its-kind authentication protocol for wireless, battery-free, ultraminiaturised implants that ensures these devices remain protected while still allowing emergency access.

The protocol takes advantage of what was considered a weakness in the implant's power system - when the implant's external power source moves relative to the implant, the amount of power the implant receives fluctuates.

But by moving the power source in a particular way, the patient (or doctor or caregiver) can send a signal based on the power fluctuations to the implant, creating a secondary authentication factor - a physical confirmation step that cannot be faked remotely.

Shingles vax reduces dementia risk

SHINGLES vaccination reduced the probability of new dementia diagnoses by around one-fifth over seven years, according to a large-scale study from Wales.

Researchers were able to take advantage of a shingles vaccine policy where people born on or after 02 Sep 1933 were eligible for shingles vaccination from 01 Sep 2013, whereas those born before this date were not eligible.

This allowed researchers to compare two groups of people who differed in age by just a few weeks but could otherwise be expected to be fairly similar.

When they compared new dementia diagnoses between the vaccine-eligible and ineligible populations, they found that receiving the vaccine decreased the likelihood of being diagnosed with dementia during the seven-year follow-up by approximately 20%.

The effect was greater in women than in men.

The authors proposed potential mechanisms to explain how zoster vaccination might reduce the risk of dementia, such as reduced reactivation of dormant zoster virus or a broader immune mechanism triggered by the vaccine.

Further research is needed to determine whether the effects are truly causal and to understand how protection is conferred.

"Although it is still unclear precisely how herpes zoster vaccination lowers the risk of dementia, the implications of the study are profound," said Anupam Jena, Professor of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School, in an accompanying editorial.

"The vaccine could represent a cost-effective intervention that has public health benefits strongly exceeding its intended purpose."



Dr Henry Brodaty, Professor of Ageing and Mental Health at the University of New South Wales, highlighted the fact that the vaccine used was the live-attenuated vaccine (Zostavax), and it's unclear whether the newer non-live virus Shingrix, which is used widely in Australia, will have the same effect.

He also noted that the recipients were around 80 when vaccinated, and further research will need to

determine whether immunisation at younger ages, as per the National Immunisation Program protocol in Australia, will be just as effective.

"There has been evidence for some time that older people who receive their vaccinations in general are less likely to develop dementia," said Professor Brodaty.

"This is the best evidence yet to show this."

Read the full paper [HERE](#). KB

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New Indications

- **Amivantamab (Rybrevent)** is now also indicated in combination with carboplatin and pemetrexed for the treatment of adult patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) exon 19 deletions or exon 21 L858R substitution mutations, whose disease has progressed on or after treatment with an EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitor, and as first-line treatment of adult patients with locally advanced or metastatic NSCLC, with activating EGFR exon 20 insertion mutations.
- **Dupilumab (Dupixent)** is now indicated as an add-on maintenance treatment for uncontrolled chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, characterised by raised blood eosinophils, in adults on a stable combination of an inhaled corticosteroid (ICS), a long-acting beta2-agonist (LABA), and a long-acting muscarinic antagonist (LAMA), or on a combination of a LABA and a LAMA if ICS is not appropriate.
- **Durvalumab (Imfinzi)** is now indicated as monotherapy for the treatment of adult patients with limited-stage small cell lung cancer whose disease has not progressed following platinum-based chemoradiation therapy.
- **Enfortumab vedotin (Padcev)**, in combination with pembrolizumab, is now indicated for the first-line treatment of adult patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial cancer.
- **Enzalutamide (Xtandi)** is now indicated for the treatment of patients with non-metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer with biochemical recurrence at high-risk for metastasis.
- **Nivolumab (rch) (Opdivo)**, in combination with platinum-doublet chemotherapy, is now also indicated for the neoadjuvant treatment of adult patients with resectable (tumours ≥ 4 cm or node positive) non-small cell lung cancer and no known epidermal growth factor receptor mutations or anaplastic lymphoma kinase rearrangements, followed by Opdivo as a single agent in the adjuvant setting after surgical resection.
- **Pembrolizumab (rch) (Keytruda)** is now indicated in combination with enfortumab vedotin, for the first-line treatment of adult patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma; in combination with carboplatin and paclitaxel, followed by Keytruda as a single agent, for the treatment of adult patients with primary advanced or recurrent endometrial carcinoma; and in combination with chemoradiotherapy, for the treatment of patients with high-risk, locally advanced cervical cancer (FIGO 2014 Stage IB2-IIIB and node-positive, or Stage III-IVA).

New Contraindications

- **Metronidazole (Flagyl)** is now contraindicated in patients with Cockayne syndrome.
- **Obeticholic acid (Ocaliva)** is now contraindicated in patients with compensated cirrhosis who have evidence of portal hypertension (e.g. ascites, gastroesophageal varices, persistent thrombocytopenia).

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.