

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of industry news, plus a full page from Chemsave.

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Learn more about a special offer on **page three**.

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.

Summit Pharmacy fined by TGA

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued four infringement notices totalling \$75,120 to Queensland-based Summit Pharmacy for the alleged unlawful manufacturing of medicinal cannabis products.

Summit Pharmacy has paid all four infringement notices.

The infringement notices followed an inspection by the TGA and Queensland Health in Aug last year that found the pharmacy was manufacturing medicinal cannabis oils in bulk amounts, in alleged contravention of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*.

The Act prohibits the manufacturing of therapeutic goods unless the goods are entered in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) or subject to an exemption, approval or authority.

4 ways to help build strong bones



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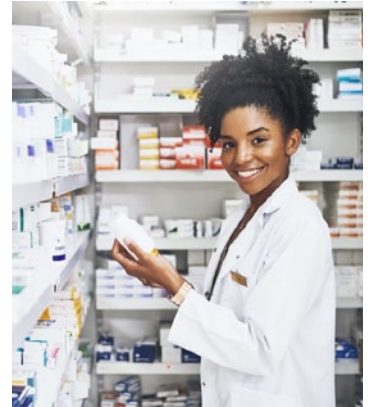
Expanded QUM resources

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is continuing its work as part of the Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) Alliance, a multidisciplinary group of health and consumer organisations delivering free health education for a national audience of health professionals and consumers.

The QUM Alliance, which includes the RACGP, the Black Dog Institute and HealthCare Consumers, is expanding into new topic areas including menopause, secondary stroke prevention, antidepressants in teens and young adults, osteoporosis and complex comorbidity.

These new topics build on the work of the QUM Alliance in atopic dermatitis (eczema), gout, antidepressants in older people, and oral anticoagulants in people with atrial fibrillation (*PD* 01 Apr).

PSA National President Associate Professor Fei Sim said: "PSA is leading the way for QUM education, representing the



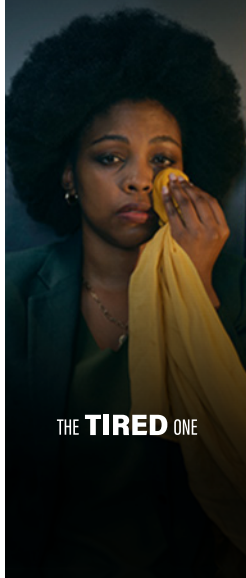
pharmacy profession and working closely with other Alliance members to upskill not only pharmacists but also other health professionals and consumers.

"We look forward to continuing this important work over the next three years, and encourage pharmacists across all areas of practice to engage with the QUM Alliance resources," Associate Professor Sim concluded.

See the PSA's QUM resources [HERE](#).

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References: 1. Silverstein et al. Clin Ophthalmol. 2020;14:3167-3177.
2. Springs CL. Adv Ther. 2010 Oct;27(10): 681-90. ©2025 Alcon Laboratories Pty Ltd. AUS: 1800 224 153; Auckland NZ: 0800 101 106. ANZ-SYX-2500005.

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Dispensary Corner

IN shock-horror news land, it seems like just about everything has "more germs than a toilet seat" - light switches, remote controls, phones...

That's not necessarily because everything anyone touches ever is super germey, but because toilet seats may not be particularly problematic - the microbes generally go in the toilet, not on the seat.

The latest germier-than-a-toilet-seat thing is teddy bears - these soft, cuddly, bear-shaped petri dishes harbour twice as many bacteria as the average toilet seat, researchers from multidisciplinary retailer MattressNextDay report.

Unsurprisingly, these include *Staphylococcus aureus* and *E. coli* - bacteria that can lead to "nasty" infections in children.

The testing team also looked at household rubbish bins (least bacteria) and kiddie blankets (worse than teddy bears).

Dr Sniegoule Geige, a UK doctor specialising in aesthetics and media comment, warned parents that it's "not just dirt".

"We're dealing with hidden health hazards that pose a real risk, especially in homes with young children or individuals with compromised immune systems," she reportedly said.

"Cleaning these items should be a priority to safeguard health and well-being."

The best way to clean Biohazard Bear is to place him in a mesh laundry bag or zippered pillowcase, use a delicates machine cycle and line dry.

POCT: a clinical and business growth opportunity

INDEPENDENT Pharmacies Australia (IPA) has released a whitepaper on the potential of point-of-care testing (POCT) to transform pharmacies by expanding scope of practice, enhancing health outcomes and contributing to the sustainability of the healthcare system.

And as delegates heard at APP2025, POCT also has the potential to create new pharmacy revenue streams.

The whitepaper includes the outcomes from a POCT pilot program conducted in partnership with DBG Health's PharmaPrograms and IPA and Abbott involving 29 pharmacies in metropolitan and regional Australia, with a total of 1,345 POCT tests conducted on 628 patients.

The tests were: HbA1c (completed alongside the validated AUSDRISK assessment), which supports both diabetes screening and management; full lipid panel for cholesterol assessment, alongside blood pressure measurement for cardiovascular risk considerations; acute infections testing for COVID-19, Influenza A/B, and Strep A.

The instruments were able to deliver results on-site within 15 minutes, enabling pharmacists to provide immediate clinical referrals, lifestyle modification advice and recommendations for other pharmacy clinic services.

The opportunistic testing revealed concerning blood sugar and blood lipid levels in a significant number of patients, with 138 referred to a doctor for follow-up care.

Speaking at APP2025, Guild President Trent Twomey pointed out that while screening for certain conditions using POCT is not new, full scope of practice will enable

pharmacists to take the next steps - that is, to diagnose, treat and manage chronic disease.

Twomey noted that there are many POCT devices on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) that are currently approved

for screening purposes - now the sponsors are applying to get the devices registered for diagnostic testing, as they are in other countries.

While there will be capital and time costs for pharmacists looking to undertake POCT, Twomey pointed out that patients are happy to pay to get a result on the spot.

"We charge \$20 for a brief consult, \$35 for standard consult and \$55 for a long consult.

"And we haven't had a single complaint from anyone, because what we're providing is a safe and effective alternative to a \$75, or even a \$120 GP appointment."

Prior to the pilot, Dubbo pharmacist Lisa Gibson had been using POCT testing for four or five years, and over the course of the pilot, her team tested 111 people.

"Probably the most surprising thing was that of all the patients who were screened - and it was all opportunistic, we weren't targeting any populations - only 21 had normal readings on every test.

"The rest had risk factors and we referred them on."

While patients were waiting for their test results, pharmacists took the opportunity to discuss whether they were up to date with their vaccinations.

Another pilot pharmacist, Karen



Carter from Carter's Pharmacy Gunnedah and Narrabri Pharmacy, had a similar experience, and noted that many of the people tested were those who would not normally see a doctor and had no idea there was anything wrong.

For Twomey, POCT is about empowering pharmacists to do more with medicines for the people in their community.

"The fact is, the healthcare crisis we have is a silent one.

"There is a large cohort out there that does not know that they have prediabetes, that does not know that they have hypertension, that does not know that they have dyslipidaemia.

"And if they go undiagnosed and untreated, it will not only cost them and their family quite severely, but it will cost the economy quite severely," Twomey said.

"So the business case behind this is empowering you to be able to do all things with medicines: prescribe, dispense, administer, review.

"Not just look after vaccine preventable diseases and acute infections, as we do now, but ultimately, chronic disease management," Twomey concluded.

The whitepaper and a link to IPA's Pharmacy podcast on POCT, with whitepaper author Melody Mugar and DBG Health's Sally Pantoni, is available **HERE**. *KB*

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