

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from **Glucjel**.

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Webinar - learn from the best

FIVE health services from across the country received 10th Anniversary Clinical Care Standards Excellence Awards for their quality improvement efforts and impact on patient care (**PD** 16 Jul).

Safety and Quality in Health Care is holding a webinar on 19 Aug featuring the five recipients - more **HERE**.

PSA backs TGA cannabis action

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is today launching a public consultation to explore the possibility of expanding the regulation of unapproved medicinal cannabis products, a move welcomed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

The initiative has been prompted by increasing public and professional concern about the safety risks associated with unapproved medicinal cannabis products, particularly those containing higher levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

The TGA noted that the concern "appears to correlate with the rapid growth in the number and type of these products being used and accessed in Australia by patients".

With more than 1,000 products currently accessed through the Special Access Scheme (SAS) and Authorised Prescriber (AP) scheme, PSA National President Assoc Prof Fei Sim is calling for reform that ensures medicinal cannabis is

prescribed and dispensed safely, with appropriate oversight.

"Unregistered medicinal cannabis products pose serious challenges, including inconsistent dosing, limited safety data, and minimal post-market surveillance," she said.

"These gaps increase the risk of harm and demand greater care in prescribing."

Assoc Prof Sim pointed out that the SAS and AP schemes were "designed for unique clinical situations, not as a loophole for hundreds of products to bypass regulatory scrutiny".

The PSA will engage with subject matter experts and the broader profession to inform its submission to the TGA, and is "committed to partnering with government to reduce harm from unapproved medicinal cannabis products".

"PSA commends the TGA for taking action to address the growing safety concerns of both healthcare professionals and our community," Assoc Prof Sim said. **KB**



Creon shortage anticipated

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised of anticipated shortages of Creon 25,000 unit and Creon 35,000 unit capsules between 21 Aug and 31 Dec 2025, due to an unexpected global increase in demand.

The sponsor, Viatris, will continue to receive a regular supply of all strengths of Creon (pancreatic extract), but availability may be limited and may vary from one pharmacy to another during this period.

Pharmacists are urged to dispense no more than a month's supply of Creon at a time; to ask patients not to stockpile the product; and to suggest patients contact them in advance to organise their next prescription, to ensure that Creon is available when they need it.

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Dispensary Corner

INDIAN researchers have discovered a low-tech, low-cost treatment for obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA): blowing into a conch shell.

A small study published today in *ERJ Open Research* reports that people who practised blowing through a conch shell regularly for six months experienced a reduction in their sleep apnoea symptoms.

Blowing the conch shell, or shankh blowing, has been part of Indian culture for thousands of years.

The new research showed that people with moderate OSA who practised shankh blowing slept better, felt more alert during the day and had fewer breathing interruptions at night.

The study included 30 people with moderate OSA, aged between 19 and 65, who were trained in either conch blowing or deep breathing.

Participants were encouraged to practise at home for a minimum of 15 minutes, five days per week.

After six months, the patients were reassessed, with the conch blowers 34% less sleepy in the daytime than the deep breathers, and had better sleep, fewer apnoea episodes each night, and higher nighttime blood oxygen levels.

The researchers say conch blowing is a simple, cheap intervention that could help reduce symptoms without the need for medication or machines, and give you a better sleep - if the *Lord of the Flies* vibes don't keep you awake.

Amcal raises \$350k for DV

AMCAL has presented a \$200,000 donation to charity partner RizeUp Australia at its recent 10th Anniversary Gala Ball.

Founded in 2015, RizeUp works in partnership with agencies to provide support for those affected by family and domestic violence.

Since launching the partnership in Oct 2024, Amcal has supported a number of RizeUp's home

setups around the country, as they deliver fully furnished homes and urgent support to victim-survivors.

So far, Amcal has raised \$350,000 in total to support the organisation.

Amcal has also rolled out an in-store, point-of-sale fundraising campaign, giving customers the opportunity to donate.

Renee Watson, Sigma's Head of Retail Operations, said: "Amcal is very proud to partner with RizeUp, a standalone organisation that shares our Amcal values of compassion and community-focus, and enables Amcal to help as many people as possible.

"Amcal is delighted to provide our financial contribution to ensure RizeUp can continue to



provide life-changing support, a safe environment, and a chance for families to start over," she said.

RizeUp Australia's CEO & Founder, Nicolle Edwards, acknowledged Amcal's "extraordinary generosity" and investment in the safety and recovery of those impacted by domestic and family violence.

"This level of support enables RizeUp to scale our impact, accelerate our response, and deliver critical services where they are needed most," Edwards said.

"Together, we are creating meaningful, measurable change in the lives of those we serve." KB

Pictured: Nicholle Edwards; Renee Watson; and Gareth Edwards, RizeUp Australia COO.

New Scripty medicine shortage alert feature

DIGITAL script wallet app Scripty now has a medicine shortage alert feature, warning patients if any medications they are taking are included in the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) medicine shortage reports database.

When a patient is first alerted to a medicine shortage, they can work with their prescribing doctor and pharmacist to find a solution, avoiding a last-

minute panic.

Scripty will soon introduce push notifications to update users in real time on any changes to a medicine's status, including short supplies, discontinuation, and resolution of shortages.

Patients can then refer to the TGA website for more details.

The Scripty feature operates independently of the TGA's medicine shortage database and is not directly integrated.

NSW UTI webinar

NSW Health has recently updated supply authorities and practice standards relating to pharmacist UTI services, and is holding a webinar on Thu 14 Aug to help support pharmacists in confidently managing uncomplicated UTIs in primary care.

Speakers include Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant, Dr Rebekah Hoffman and Dr Timothy Gray - more info [HERE](#).

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