

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Glucojel
- MediChoice

Glucojel profits you

ALL the money raised by Glucojel assists the Pharmacy Guild of Australia in its advocacy work for community pharmacy - learn more on [page four](#).

GPs call for isotretinoin rights

THE Royal Australian College of GPs has lodged an application with the TGA to let GPs prescribe isotretinoin for moderate-to-severe acne or treatment-resistant rosacea, *Australian Doctor* has reported.

Isotretinoin scripts are currently restricted to other specialists due to the drug's potentially severe side effects, including teratogenicity.

The application is expected to be discussed in Nov.

Vision projected to save health system \$5.1b

MODELLING commissioned by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia suggests that the goals outlined in its recently released 10-year vision, *Towards 2035* (PD 06 Aug), could amount to \$5.1 billion in healthcare savings if realised.

The strategy envisions 80 percent of community pharmacists and 80 percent of pharmacies being able to offer additional services to patients - examining, diagnosing and treating every day and long-term health conditions - over the next decade.

Having pharmacists step up to take a greater role in healthcare will ease pressure on the health system, freeing up 52,000 hours in emergency departments and 6.5 million GP consultations, the modelling suggests.

This will generate savings of up to \$5.1 billion for the Australian healthcare system and \$1.4 billion productivity benefit from reduced absenteeism and presenteeism.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Professor Trent Twomey, said the health outcomes for Australians will dramatically improve when the ambition of *Towards 2035* is achieved.

"Towards 2035 is our most



ambitious strategic plan," said Professor Twomey.

"Pharmacists are currently working to deliver a broader range of health services, including vaccinations, the resupply and initiation of hormonal contraceptives and the treatment of urinary tract infections (UTIs).

"Pilot programs are also underway to help Australians manage conditions like asthma and cardiovascular disease."

National harmonisation is key to achieving the vision set out in *Towards 2035*, Professor Twomey pointed out.

"At the moment the services provided by pharmacies depends on what state or territory you're in.

"We want to see harmonisation across Australia, making it simpler for patients to 'think pharmacy first' for accessible and convenient primary healthcare.

"Our vision is to create healthier communities, and *Towards 2035* is how we will achieve this."

Community pharmacists are ready

Pain relief choice

NOVA Pharmaceuticals' MediChoice offers rapid release paracetamol in packs of 16 or 32, as well as double-strength ibuprofen 400mg in packs of 30.

Learn more on [page five](#).

to do more, with more than 150 pharmacists already trained to treat a range of conditions, Professor Twomey said.

"Seventy-five percent of the Australian population lives within two-and-a-half kilometres of a pharmacy.

"It makes sense that pharmacists step up, take on more clinical responsibilities to ease pressure on public hospitals and GP clinics across the country," he concluded. KB

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Lifestyle care needed in mental health

MENTAL health experts are calling for an urgent increase in investment for lifestyle interventions to improve care and help close the 15-year life expectancy gap faced by people with mental illness.

Lifestyle interventions addressing physical activity, nutrition, sleep and smoking are "key to mental health care, not optional extras", according to a new *Lancet Psychiatry Commission* report.

The report, compiled by a team of 30 authors from 19 countries, resulted in eight recommendations and 19 priorities for action.

"Our lifestyles can change the trajectory of our mental and physical health," said lead author Dr Scott Teasdale, from UNSW Sydney.

"Many people living with mental health challenges face barriers to being physically active, eating a balanced and nutrient-rich diet, getting quality sleep, and quitting smoking," Dr Teasdale said.

"These, in turn, impact their mental health further and contribute to physical health disparities," he added.

Making changes to lifestyle risk factors improves symptoms and overall health, making it an important addition to psychological therapy and medication, he explained, but people with mental illness need support to make the changes.

"This is not just about individual behaviour change, it's about transforming systems to support health and wellbeing," Dr Teasdale said.

Read the report [HERE](#).

TWC training hits the road

TERRYWHITE

Chemmart is travelling around the country with its annual Leaders' Academy, bringing two days of hands-on learning to pharmacy leaders in every state this month.

Designed for retail managers, stock controllers and senior pharmacy assistants, the program blends practical skills with "big-picture thinking", giving teams the tools to run smarter, lead stronger and deliver standout customer experiences.

The Leaders' Academy kicked off last week in Victoria and ACT/NSW (pictured), with visits to Tasmania this week, Queensland next week, and SA/NT and WA in the following weeks.

Executive General Manager Nick Munroe said the academy is a clear example of TerryWhite Chemmart's commitment to building capability across all roles in community pharmacy.

"At TerryWhite Chemmart, it's the people who make the difference," Munroe said.

"Leaders' Academy is about giving TWC's leaders the confidence, knowledge and inspiration to work with their teams to grow their business and strengthen the connection they have with their customers."

The academy's first day focuses on operational matters, from sharper stock control and pricing strategies to understanding consumer trends and making the most of in-store systems.

The second day turns the focus to brand, leadership and loyalty, including the growing role of



pharmacy assistants in the future of pharmacy healthcare.

Every session is interactive, giving attendees practical, measurable actions they can put into place the next day.

Leaders' Academy is part of TerryWhite Chemmart's broader education program, which also includes the Masterclass series for pharmacists (PD 24 Jun), and online learning pathways tailored to every core role in pharmacy.

"By investing in people, we're helping TWC pharmacies stay ahead, deliver better health outcomes, and make a bigger impact in their communities," Munroe said. KB

Leafio launches loyalty program

AUSTRALIA'S largest medical cannabis wholesaler, Leafio, has launched a new loyalty hub for registered Leafio pharmacists, featuring a four-tiered program of benefits and rewards.

Leafio Loyalty provides discounts, offers and access to CPD accredited courses, and allows customers to easily track their current points and benefits.

Initially launched in Feb, the updated loyalty program promises easy access to points tracking, tier status, and FAQs, making the program transparent and user-friendly.

Leafio GM, Nic Le Maistre, said the refreshed loyalty program reflects Leafio's commitment to providing value to its dedicated customer base.

"Leafio values and rewards its customers' commitment to delivering high-quality medical cannabis solutions," she said.

"In recognition of this, we have launched the Leafio Loyalty Hub to strengthen pharmacy relationships and enable access to exclusive discounts and offers."

From Inspiration to Action

3 weeks to go

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Dispensary Corner

IN NEWS that surprises no-one, a study from LaTrobe University has revealed that TikTok is responsible for sharing unreliable birth control advice.

Researchers analysed 100 TikTok videos on contraceptive health that had gained nearly five billion views and 14.6 million likes in total.

More than half of the videos' creators rejected hormonal birth control, and 34% expressed distrust in health professionals.

Meanwhile, fertility awareness and cycle tracking (38%) and the pill (35%) were the hottest topics of discussion.

"Many TikTok creators promoted natural contraceptive methods like fertility tracking without disclosing their limitations, which include accurately tracking hormone fluctuations, motivation and partner cooperation," said lead researcher Dr Moel-Mandel.

"Importantly, they failed to mention that these methods are generally ineffective when used on their own."

Only 10 percent of the videos that the researchers analysed came from health professionals - the rest were from influencers sharing their own experiences or self-proclaimed "hormonal health coaches".

Co-author and La Trobe lecturer in public health Megan Bugden suggested that public health organisations collaborate with social influencers to promote accurate information in a manner that resonates with younger audiences.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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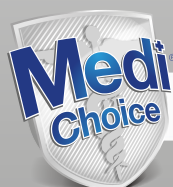
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