

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of industry news, and a full page from **MICROSHIELD**.

MICROSHIELD at home

MICROSHIELD'S hospital-grade infection prevention cleansers and moisturisers are now available for the home. Learn more on **page four**.

Presolol 100 SSSI

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has been advised by Alphapharm that its Presolol 100 (labetalol hydrochloride 100mg) tablets, used to treat hypertension, are in shortage until 03 Oct 2025 due to manufacturing issues.

Presolol 200 (labetalol hydrochloride 200mg) tablets are available, and a Serious Scarcity Substitution Instrument (SSSI) is now in place to allow a pharmacist to substitute the prescribed labetalol 100mg with labetalol 200mg, if appropriate, without a new prescription.

With the substitution, one tablet of Presolol 100 is equivalent to half a tablet of Presolol 200.

If the patient does not have the cognitive or physical ability to halve the tablet, an alternative treatment may be more appropriate.

For more info, click **HERE**.

Sigma records 41% EBIT growth in FY25

SIGMA recorded normalised EBIT growth of 41% and statutory net profit after tax of \$529.9 million in its first post-merger end-of-year results, according to an ASX statement this morning.

Key figures include like-for-like sales growth of 11.3% across the Australian Chemist Warehouse network, which now comprises 588 stores.

"The merger with Chemist Warehouse has delivered a stronger, more integrated healthcare business, with greater scale, capability, and market reach," said Sigma CEO and Managing Director Vikesh Ramsunder.

"The FY25 results demonstrate the group's momentum and potential for ongoing growth.

"Normalised EBIT for the year was up 41.4% compared to the prior corresponding period."

Ramsunder said supply chain reliability and efficiencies were key to the group's success, with the benefit of scale resulting savings of 11% per unit cost to serve.

The Sigma group now has 881 franchise stores across Australia, and reported 35 new stores in Australia and internationally in FY25.

"Sigma is now a stronger more integrated healthcare business - one with scale, capability, market reach and growth pathways," Ramsunder said.

"We have just started the journey to fully realise the benefits of the merger," he concluded.

Sigma also announced that CFO Mark Davis will be stepping down, and Damien Gance has resigned from his role as Chief Strategy and

Business Development Officer.

In addition, Chemist Warehouse COO Mario Tascone has been appointed Deputy CEO of Retail across the combined group.

"This was the first earnings release after the Chemist Warehouse merger in Feb and the results highlighted the potential success of the partnership," Jamie

Hannah of investment management firm VanEck told **Pharmacy Daily**.

"The results showcased an increase in earning over 30%, significant cost reductions up to \$100m and changes to senior management," he explained, adding that "the outlook was also positive with expectations to deliver solid sales growth". **KB**




DermAid 1% Hydrocortisone: Topical application for the temporary relief of symptoms associated with acute and chronic corticosteroid responsive conditions including: minor skin irritations, itching and rashes due to eczema, dermatitis, contact dermatitis (such as rashes due to cosmetics and jewellery), psoriasis, anogenital pruritus and sunburn. **DermAid 1% cream:** Apply a thin layer to affected skin 1-2 times daily as required. **DermAid 1% solution:** Apply a few drops to the affected area 2-3 times daily as required. Massage in gently. **DermAid 1% spray:** Hold bottle approximately 10 cm from the affected skin and apply 1-2 sprays; 2-3 times daily as required. Massage in gently.

Healthcare Professionals: Review the full Product Information (PI) before recommending DermAid 1% cream, DermAid 1% solution, DermAid 1% spray. Full PI is available from Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd and can be accessed at ebs.tga.gov.au

References: 1. Greive KA, Barnes TM. Increased bioavailability of hydrocortisone dissolved in a cream base. *Australas J Dermatol.* 2015; 56(2):e30-e34. 2. van Zuijlen EJ, Fedorowicz Z, Christensen R, Lavrijns APM, Arents BWM. Emollients and moisturisers for eczema (Review). *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2017, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD012119. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD012119.pub2.

EGO PHARMACEUTICALS PTY LTD 21-31 Malcom Road, Braeside 3195 Australia **australia** +61 3 9586 8800

toll free 1 800 033 706 'Ego' and 'DermAid' are trademarks of Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd, in Australia and other countries. ©2025 Ego. ask@egopharm.com | www.egopharm.com | Date of Preparation: January 2025



Treat with **DermAid**



IBS is a chronic and often debilitating functional gastrointestinal disorder affecting around 15% of the population.

Join Mick Alexander to explore the vital role of evidence-based probiotics in supporting the gut-brain axis.



Register

CPD accredited

Medicine
BioCeuticals



Allergy rates rise

MORE than eight million Australians (30%) now live with allergic disease, up from 4.1 million (19.6%) in 2007, according to a new Deloitte Access Economics report.

This amounts to \$18.9b in financial losses and \$44.6b in non-financial impacts each year.

Allergic disease is one of Australia's fastest growing chronic conditions, with hay fever, which affects around 24% of the population, food allergy (7%) and drug allergy (5%) among the most common.

There is an average financial cost of \$2,318 and a further \$5,470 of non-financial (wellbeing) costs per person living with an allergy.

The National Allergy Council (NAC), which provides education and support, and peak allergy research body the National Allergy Centre of Excellence (NACE) are leading Australia's coordinated national response to allergic disease.

The two bodies called for ongoing investment in their programs to reduce the burden of allergic disease for millions of Australians - the report is [HERE](#).

Painkiller link with AMR

IN THE first study of its kind, Australian researchers have discovered that ibuprofen and paracetamol could be driving antimicrobial resistance (AMR) when used in conjunction with broad-spectrum antibiotic ciprofloxacin.

The team from the University of South Australia looked at the interaction of ciprofloxacin with various non-antibiotic medications and *Escherichia coli* (E. coli), which causes gut and urinary tract infections.

Other drugs investigated were diclofenac, furosemide, metformin, atorvastatin, tramadol, temazepam and pseudoephedrine.

They found that ibuprofen and paracetamol significantly increased bacterial mutations, making E. coli highly resistant to the antibiotic.

According to the researchers, it is an important finding that has serious health implications, particularly for people in aged care homes, where multiple medications are regularly administered.

Lead researcher Associate Professor Rietje Venter said the findings raise important questions about the risks of polypharmacy in aged care.

"Antibiotics have long been vital

in treating infectious diseases, but their widespread overuse and misuse have driven a global rise in antibiotic-resistant bacteria," Assoc Prof Venter explained.

"This is especially prevalent in residential aged care facilities, where older people are more likely to be prescribed multiple medications - not just antibiotics, but also drugs for pain, sleep, or blood pressure - making it an ideal breeding ground for gut bacteria to become resistant to antibiotics.

"When bacteria were exposed to ciprofloxacin alongside ibuprofen and paracetamol, they developed more genetic mutations than with the antibiotic alone, helping them grow faster and become highly resistant," she continued.

"Worryingly, the bacteria were not only resistant to the antibiotic ciprofloxacin, but increased resistance was also observed to multiple other antibiotics from different classes."

The team also uncovered the genetic mechanisms behind this resistance, where the painkillers activated the bacteria's defences to expel antibiotics and render them less effective.

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

Call for expanded vaccination access

GENERAL practitioners are calling on the New South Wales Government to urgently expand free vaccination access state-wide, including an upcoming intranasal influenza vaccine for young children.

Less than a quarter of kids in NSW aged under five and fewer than 60% of patients aged over 65 are vaccinated against the flu, lagging the national average.

The RACGP is calling for expanded access to vaccinations, including full funding of flu vaccination for high-risk groups; intranasal flu vaccines for children aged two to five years; meningococcal B vaccines for those aged two years and under as well as 15-19-year-olds; and funding for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines for those aged over 50.

Funding access to the new intranasal vaccine will help relieve the stresses many parents experience when it comes to giving small children an injection, the RACGP said.

From Inspiration to Action

1 week to go



3 - 5 SEPTEMBER 2025
HYATT REGENCY SYDNEY



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

Your views about biosimilars

Researchers are looking for pharmacists to complete a short survey on their views and experience with biosimilar substitution.

You will have the chance to receive a summary of the results and go into the draw for one of four \$100 gift vouchers.

[CLICK HERE](#) to find out more about the survey



Discount
CincottaChemist

Famous for value, famous for care.

Join a Brand with Over 70 Years Experience

... and Still Growing Strong



20%
STORE
GROWTH IN
12 MONTHS

CONTACT JASON



**SCAN TO
LEARN MORE**



Dispensary Corner

AN ENTICING, if somewhat slippery headline tells us that 'guilty pleasures' can "reduce risk of diabetes, cancer, heart disease and even death".

And that's true, if your 'guilty pleasures' are red wine and dark chocolate, presumably in some sort of moderation.

However, if donuts, cigarettes and Vodka Cruisers are more your thing, then not so much.

The key to healthy 'guilty pleasures' is flavonoids, which include anthocyanins, flavonols, flavonones, flavan-3-ols and flavones.

A large, long-term study found that people who consumed the widest variety of flavonoids, defined as an additional 6.7 flavonoid types per day, had a 14% lower risk of all-cause mortality and a 10% lower risk of cardiovascular disease.

Those who ate the widest variety of flavonoids also had a 20% reduced risk of type 2 diabetes, and an 8% reduced risk of cancer compared to those with the lowest variety.

In addition to dark chocolate and red wine, flavonoid-rich foods and drinks include tea, apples, berries, oranges and grapes - but the catch is you need to consume these as well as wine and chocolate for maximum benefit.

"This study is significant as the results indicate that consuming a higher quantity and wider diversity [of flavonoids] has the potential to lead to a greater reduction in ill health than just a single source," the study authors said.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Crampeze: effective multi-combination solution vs magnesium alone for cramp relief

Crampeze combines *Viburnum Opulus* (cramp bark), magnesium and a unique combination of ingredients. It is an effective multi-combination product versus magnesium alone for cramp relief.

- Crampeze is ideal for chronic cramp sufferers and long-term use.
- Crampeze Forte is suitable for sports-related cramps and those starting treatment.



CRAMPEZE RRP: 30 capsules - \$16.95 / 60 capsules - \$24.95 / 120 capsules - \$42.95

CRAMPEZE FORTE RRP: 30 capsules - \$22.95 / 60 capsules - \$35.95

Stockist number: Contact 1300 555 597.

Website: [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Revive Tears - PBS-listed



Revive Tears lubricating eye drops provide long-lasting and soothing relief against burning, irritation and discomfort due to dry eye.

The product moisturises, comforts and refreshes dry, tired and strained eyes.

Revive Tears helps lubricate, hydrate and protect dry eyes.

Suitable for use with contact lenses.

Contains hypromellose 3mg/g.

Suppliers: Available from Symbion, Sigma, API and CH2.

RRP: \$4.32 (available in 10ml packs).

Website: [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

HOSPITAL INFECTION PREVENTION BRAND MICROSHIELD®

Now available for
home use



PRODUCT	SIZE	API	CH2	Sigma	Symbion
MICROSHIELD 2 Chlorhexidine Skin Cleanser	500mL	525707	1458308	10010872	942790
MICROSHIELD 4 Chlorhexidine Surgical Wash	125mL	190937	2580053		845450
MICROSHIELD 4 Chlorhexidine Surgical Wash	500mL	881767	1473054	10010579	942782
MICROSHIELD ANGEL BLUE Antimicrobial Hand Gel	500mL	935611	2076551	10002918	394459
MICROSHIELD Skincare Cleanser - pH balanced	500mL	833665	1473083		845485
MICROSHIELD Moisturising Lotion	500mL	193491	1528810	10033846	845469