

## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features two pages of news, plus a Fact Sheet from **Glutagen**, and a full page from **Dermal Therapy**.

## Managing pain and fever QCPP

**PHARMACY** Club, in partnership with Haleon, has launched a Managing Adult Pain & Fever with Panadol QCPP Module for pharmacy staff.

The course aims to help pharmacy staff identify the signs and symptoms of common adult pain conditions and understand how the Panadol Adult range can support effective pain management.

Approved for 30 minutes of QCPP refresher training, the module is available at [PharmacyClub.com.au](http://PharmacyClub.com.au), alongside other training modules and resources.

## Workforce shortage crisis

**ADVANCED** Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has released a new report revealing an innovative and diversifying profession hamstrung by resourcing pressures, which restricts equitable access to essential hospital care.

The first comprehensive examination of Australia's hospital pharmacy workforce, *The State of Pharmacy: Workforce Insights 2025* report details the scale and impact of workforce shortages across Australia, which are set to worsen due to increasing capacity demands and widespread job vacancies.

The report showed that three-quarters of hospital and health service sites reduced pharmacy services in the previous 12 months due to workforce shortages, with AdPha President Associate Professor Tom Simpson saying "hospital pharmacy is at an inflection point".

"Almost all sites (99.3%) have additional hospital and transition beds funded for the next 24 months, with at least 1,439 new

beds coming into the system nationally, however 64.5% of sites reported FTE vacancies for pharmacists on current bed capacities alone," Assoc Prof Simpson said.

"Only one in six hospital sites nationally provide extended-hours clinical pharmacy services on weekdays, and less than one third provide weekend services, despite weekend emergency department activity mirroring weekday patterns," he said, pointing out that patients who arrive on the weekend "deserve the same quality of care".

AdPha Vice President Brenda Shum said the report will help chart a course forward for advanced pharmacy.

"For too long, the vital contribution of hospital pharmacists and pharmacy technicians has been under-recognised in national workforce planning, which stems from a lack of visibility.

"This report changes that narrative by providing data and insights into who we are, what we do, and the measurable impact we have on patient outcomes and healthcare sustainability."

Read the report [HERE](#).

## Outsmart gluten

**GLUTEGUARD** provides your gluten free customers with a pre-meal strategy for hidden gluten when dining out.

See the fact sheet on **page four**, and learn how pharmacists could win \$1,500.



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## Ditch the itch

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## Dispensary Corner

**FORGET** the latest technology and advances in medicine: the way to treat low back pain could be really simple - so simple that even a baby could do it.

University of South Australia research suggests that relearning 'baby' movements such as crawling, rolling and squatting could help reduce discomfort and rebuild confidence in how people move.

The team developed a 12-week movement-based program called Motum, and tested it on 16 low back pain patients, with 16 control patients.

For the first four weeks of the program, participants carried out floor-based exercises including rolling, crawling and kneeling, which provide a safe, stable foundation to rebuild essential motor control.

They then progressed to more complex movements over the 12 weeks, supported by physiotherapists who tailor the exercises to individual abilities.

"We still need larger trials, but this pilot shows real potential," the researchers said.

## Preventable hospitalisations cost \$7.7b

THE Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW) has released new data on the cost of potentially preventable hospitalisations (PPH) in Australia, revealing that there were about 788,000 PPH in 2023-24 costing \$7.7 billion and accounting for more than 3 million hospital bed days across Australia.

PPH refers to admissions for conditions that could potentially be avoided through timely and effective primary care, early disease management or public health interventions.

Much of the spending related to potentially preventable conditions within the remit of pharmacists' expanded scope of practice.

The highest PPH spending in 2023-24 was for chronic conditions, at 45% of all PPH costs, with diabetes complications the leading chronic condition at a cost of \$962 million, followed by congestive cardiac failure (\$861m) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD, \$797m).

Acute conditions made up 38% of all PPH costs in 2023-24, with the largest contributor being urinary tract infections at a cost of \$695 million, while pneumonia and influenza represented more than 60% of vaccine-preventable costs.



DID YOU KNOW

There's a probiotic to help relieve the symptoms of acne?

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"This report tracked hospital expenditure from 2014-15 to 2023-24 and shows most people were hospitalised for chronic conditions that could be prevented," Public Health Association of Australia CEO, Adj Prof Terry Slevin, said.

"Properly resourcing prevention programs mean less pressure on our stretched emergency departments and ambulance services, so less hospital ramping.

"The fewer people who get sick, the less it costs us as a society, and if we do get sick, avoiding repeat hospitalisations also saves money."

Prof Slevin reiterated the importance of prevention, and the Association's hope that the Australian Centre for Disease Control will act on chronic disease.

"For decades, all Australian and state/territory governments have prioritised spending on acute care instead of keeping people out of hospitals," he said.

**MEANWHILE**, the Australian Medical Association (AMA) is calling for immediate action to combat vaccine hesitancy and reverse declining immunisation rates across the country in the wake of its new report - *From coverage to concern: a policy analysis of Australia's immunisation decline*.



AMA President Dr Danielle McMullen said declining vaccination rates had far-reaching consequences, with preventable diseases re-emerging, driving up hospital admissions and stretching emergency departments.

"Our hospitals are already in logjam, operating at or above capacity, and yet nearly 10% of preventable admissions are linked to vaccine-preventable illnesses," Dr McMullen said, referring to the AIHW report on preventable hospitalisations.

"We must act now to strengthen public health initiatives and lift vaccine coverage across all age groups, because vaccines aren't just about stopping a sniffle - they are about saving lives," she stated.

The report highlighted the role of misinformation and anti-science sentiment in eroding public trust in vaccination, with vaccine fatigue and competing demands on time also contributing to declining rates.

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**Journalists** - Adam Bishop, Myles Stedman, Janie Medbury  
**Editor-at-large** - Bruce Piper  
**Associate Publisher** - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller  
**Editorial Director** - Damian Francis

### ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

**Head of Sales & Marketing** - Sean Harrigan  
**Business Development Manager** - Kara Stanley  
[advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### GENERAL MANAGER & PUBLISHER

Matthew Vince

### ACCOUNTS

[accounts@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:accounts@traveldaily.com.au)

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd  
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia  
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

[info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au)

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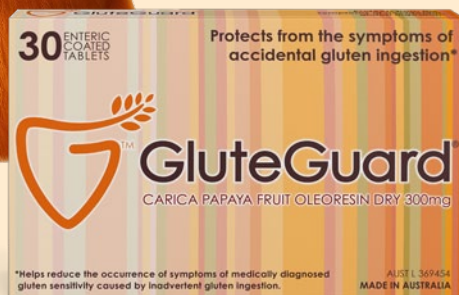




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1. Cornell HJ et al. *Int J Celiac Dis.* 2016;4:40-47. 2. Żebrowska A et al. *Int J Celiac Dis.* 2014;2(2):58-63.

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