

## Today's issue of PD

**Pharmacy Daily** today features two pages of news, plus a full page from **Maxofen**, and the **December MIMS Monthly Update**.

## Maximise your day

**NEW** Maxofen from Nova Pharmaceuticals combines paracetamol and ibuprofen for double-action relief from acute pain and fever.

Available in packs of 12 and 30 tablets - more on **page three**.

## Save the date

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) 2026 national conference will take place from 31 Jul - 02 Aug at the ICC in Sydney, with further details to come.

## Final My Chemist transforms to Amcal+

**CHEMIST** Warehouse Group marked a significant and sentimental milestone yesterday, with Reservoir My Chemist becoming the final store in a network of more than 20 locations to complete the transition to Amcal+.

Earlier this year, Sigma secured the commitment of My Chemist stores franchisees to convert to Amcal+ pharmacies, a process that started with the Chadstone store in March (**PD** 31 Mar).

The refreshed Amcal+ Reservoir store now features expanded professional services including medication reviews, health checks and personalised care plans, alongside wellness and beauty offerings.

With the addition of Ultra Beauty, Amcal+ Reservoir enhances its premium in-store experience through a dedicated "store-within-a-store" concept, featuring a luxury fragrances, makeup, and skincare and haircare products.

The transformation also marked a return to the same



suburb where the Chemist Warehouse story began in 1972, when founders Jack and Sam Gance purchased their very first pharmacy in Reservoir, later expanding with a second store a few streets away.

"Completing the Amcal+ transformation from My Chemist in Reservoir is a truly special moment for us," said Tony Bassaly, Amcal+ General Manager Franchise Brands.

"We are proud to bring this next chapter of Amcal+ back to the community that has been part of our story from the very beginning," Bassaly said.

**Pictured:** Mario Verrocchi, CEO Chemist Warehouse Group; Frank Nigro, Managing Partner; and Sam Gance, Co-Founder.

## NT community pharmacy excellence honoured

**OUTSTANDING** contributors to community pharmacy in the Northern Territory were recognised last night at the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's 2026 Northern Territory National Pharmacy Awards.

Demonstrating excellence in pharmacy practice through leadership, innovation, and deep community connection, the winners will now represent the Territory in the national final at APP on the Gold Coast in Mar 2026.

Student Pharmacist of the Year was awarded to Elijah Callis, a high achiever with research spanning reproductive science innovation and cultural competence in pharmacy training.

Callis has championed remote learners and expanded opportunities for peers, pointing to a future leader dedicated to rural and remote care.

Claire Ross was named

Community Pharmacist of the Year, whose dedication to community extended far beyond the dispensary as she works with government to expand pharmacist services so patients can receive the care they need close to home.

The owner of two successful Blooms the Chemist pharmacies, Ross has built a career grounded in patient-centred care, clinical excellence, and genuine human connection, supporting people through every stage of life.

Finally, the Community Pharmacy of the Year, sponsored by Symbion, was Hibiscus Day & Night Pharmacy (**pictured**), which has transformed into a true health hub, offering holistic care and innovative services.

Guild NT Branch President Peter Hatswell said the winners reflect the strength and diversity of



pharmacy practice across the state, with every finalist contributing in meaningful ways.

"With the Northern Territory embracing expanded scope of practice for pharmacists, this is a pivotal moment to recognise the outstanding work being done in community pharmacies," he said.

"These changes mean Territorians can access more timely and convenient care, reducing pressure on other parts of the health system," Hatswell concluded. **KB**

## Cancer Council kids sunscreen recall

**VITALITY** Brands Worldwide is recalling three batches of Cancer Council Sunscreen Clear Zinc Kids SPF50+ 110g due to the potential for the product to become separated.

When this occurs, the product may appear to have uneven texture and visible water separating out of the product, and the ingredients are no longer properly mixed.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) warns it will be more difficult to spread

evenly on skin, and could reduce the overall performance of the product, including SPF, resulting in inadequate sun protection.

Affected batch numbers are 1143730, 1141313 and 1146857.

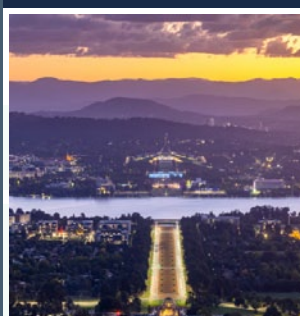
Consumers who have purchased one of the affected batches are advised to return the product to the place of purchase or contact Vitality Brands.

This recall is not related to those of other sunscreen products following the TGA's ongoing investigation into SPF testing.



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## Dispensary Corner

**THE** knives are out for one of society's biggest menaces to public health and medicine - social media influencers.

Experts writing in *The BMJ* argued that biased or misleading medical advice shared by social media influencers can cause harm.

More than 70% of young adults in the US follow influencers, and over 40% have purchased products based on their recommendations, they reported, raising alarm over their growing...er, influence.

However, experts warn, influencer advice can be subject to bias - lack of medical expertise or relevant knowledge, industry influence, entrepreneurial interests, and personal beliefs - and can cause psychological, physical, financial and systemic harm.

Examples include Kim Kardashian's recommendation to her 360 million Instagram followers that they have full body screening with magnetic resonance imaging, a costly test with no proven benefits.

Meanwhile, US chiropractor Eric Berg promotes high dose supplementation to his 14 million followers, including some that he sells which were subject to a legal warning for lead content above safety levels.

While acknowledging there may be some useful advice, including debunking of misinformation, the team called for collaboration between stakeholders - particularly governments and social media platforms - to minimise harm.

## Allied health digital connectivity plan released

**THE** Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing have released a national plan to help the allied health workforce share key health information between themselves, their patients and multidisciplinary care partners, enabling more connected care.

Supported by Allied Health Professions Australia, the *National Allied Health Digital Uplift Plan* sets out a coordinated pathway to uplift digital capability across the nation's allied health workforce - the largest workforce in primary care.

Designed with patient care and outcomes at its centre, ADHA CEO Amanda Cattermole said the plan is a call to action, supporting allied health professionals to embrace the digital tools and services that are becoming available to them as part of the shift towards a more digitally connected, collaborative and data-driven system.

"In collaboration with peak bodies and industry, government is providing the tools to enable the sector to transform their

way of providing care," Cattermole said.

"Empowering professionals with training and support, and integration with tools like My Health Record and Provider Connect Australia, will strengthen multidisciplinary care and enable a more sustainable, integrated health system that delivers better outcomes for all Australians."

Chief Allied Health Officer Anita Hobson-Powell said that allied health professionals work in tandem with other health and care providers but experience delays in receiving key health information for their patients.

"This plan will make a real difference for Australians, particularly those living with complex or chronic health conditions," Hobson-Powell said.

"By improving the way health information is shared and accessed, allied health professionals can provide more timely, coordinated and personalised care."

The plan was developed in consultation with over 220 allied



health professionals, 60 peak bodies, consumers, software vendors and government stakeholders.

AHDA Chief Program Officer Paul Creech has urged allied health professionals to access tailored assistance and practical guidance to register and connect to digital health tools like My Health Record and Provider Connect Australia.

"Allied health professionals are essential to delivering integrated, joined-up care for all Australians, enabled through digital technology, Creech said.

"The *National Allied Health Digital Uplift Plan* sets the path to deliver on this vision," he concluded.

## Migraine affects 1.7 million Aussies, shows new AIHW data

**DATA** from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) published today reveals that around 2.2 million Australians were living with a long-term neurological condition in 2022, with migraine - which affects 1.7 million people - the most common.

The *Neurological conditions in Australia* report shows that females were almost twice as likely as males to have a long-term neurological condition, which is equivalent to about one in nine

females and one in 16 males.

This difference was largely due to migraine, which affected 9.2% of females compared with 4.1% of males.

Meanwhile, around 60% of Australians in permanent residential aged care had a neurological condition recorded as affecting their care.

An estimated \$6.6 billion in health-system spending was attributed to neurological conditions, accounting for 3.6% of all disease-related costs.

The costliest conditions were dementia (\$1.6 billion), epilepsy (\$760 million), multiple sclerosis (\$675 million) and migraine (\$593 million).

The report marks the first time that data on the prevalence, health service use, disease burden and health system expenditure associated with neurological conditions has been compiled in one place, and is important step in improving the outcomes for those affected.

Read the report [HERE](#).



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## New Indications

- **Durvalumab (Imfinzi)** in combination with gemcitabine and cisplatin is now also indicated as neoadjuvant treatment, followed by Imfinzi as monotherapy adjuvant treatment after radical cystectomy, for the treatment of adults with muscle invasive bladder cancer.
- **Normal immunoglobulin (human) and vorhyaluronidase alfa (Hyqvia)** is now also indicated in children 2 years of age and older for replacement therapy in primary immunodeficiency disease and symptomatic hypogammaglobulinaemia secondary to underlying disease or treatment, and in adults and children 2 years of age and older for immunomodulatory therapy in chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, as maintenance therapy after stabilisation with intravenous immunoglobulin.
- **Selpercatinib (Retevmo)** is now indicated for the treatment of adult and adolescent (12 years of age and older) patients with advanced or metastatic rearranged during transfection-mutant medullary thyroid cancer who require systemic therapy.
- **Trastuzumab deruxtecan (Enhertu)** is now indicated (with provisional approval) for the treatment of adult patients with unresectable or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer whose tumours have activating human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (erythroblastic oncogene B 2) mutations and who have received prior platinum-based chemotherapy with or without immunotherapy.

## New Contraindications

- **Phenobarbital (Phenobarb)** is now contraindicated in patients with a natural or acquired idiosyncrasy to barbiturates.
- **Voriconazole (Vfend)** is now contraindicated for concomitant use with medicinal products that are highly dependent on CYP3A4 for metabolism, and for which elevated plasma concentrations are associated with serious and/or life-threatening reactions (including eplerenone and voclosporin) and with medicinal products that induce CYP3A4 and significantly reduce plasma concentrations of voriconazole.

*This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month.  
Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.*