

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from **Duofilm** by Dr. Yglo.

Freeze warts

DR. YGLO'S Duofilm cryotherapy offers pinpoint accuracy that freezes only the wart without damaging surrounding skin.

See details on **page four**.

New cannabis boss

CANNABIS Council Australia, the national peak body for the medicinal cannabis sector, has announced the appointment of Lisa Penlington as its inaugural Chief Executive Officer.

Penlington's career spans over 25 years in health policy, governance and stakeholder engagement, including with physician peak bodies.

Pharmacists' 3.5% pay rise

PHARMACISTS will benefit from a 3.5% increase to the award wage, delivered through the Annual Wage Review by the Fair Work Commission yesterday.

The increase has been welcomed by Professional Pharmacists Australia, who said the increase is an "important win for our nation's hard-working pharmacists made possible by persistent advocacy and campaigning by union members over many years".

"This pay rise recognises that pharmacists have suffered a reduction in real wage growth over the last four years as inflation has risen and wages have not kept up," said a spokesperson for the union.

"This increase is a step forward, but we know it's still not enough to match the real value of pharmacists' work, especially as our practice continues to expand."

In its submission to the 2025 Annual Wage Review, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia said it "strongly advocates that any

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increase to the National Minimum Wage and Modern Award Wages does not exceed a maximum of 2.5%".

The Guild cited concerns that increases to wage rates have been outpacing profit growth for businesses, with the impact of this felt particularly in the small business sector, directly affecting a significant portion of Guild members.

Professional Pharmacists Australia said this latest increase is part of a longer campaign for structural reform, to secure safe workloads, fair pay, and professional respect for all pharmacists.

The increase comes on top of a rise in minimum wage rates of 14.1% over three years as a result of the Fair Work Commission's Gender-Based Undervaluation Review, which found that pharmacists covered by the Pharmacy Industry Award 2020 have been the subject of gender-based undervaluation (**PD** 17 Apr). **KB**

TGA takes Philips to court

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has commenced proceedings in the Federal Court of Australia against Philips Electronics Australia Limited for the alleged unlawful supply of medical devices that did not meet Australian safety and performance requirements.

These included devices used in the home for sleep apnoea and breathing difficulties.

The devices contained a polyester-based polyurethane (PE-PUR) foam used for noise suppression, which risked degrading and potentially being inhaled or ingested by patients.

The TGA alleges that the devices supplied from 2 Jun 2019 to 13 Oct 2022 were unsafe, did not perform as intended, and were therefore unlawfully supplied.

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Mounjaro approved for sleep apnoea

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has expanded the use of type 2 diabetes medicine Mounjaro (tirzepatide) to include the treatment of moderate-to-severe obstructive sleep apnoea in adults living with obesity.

This makes Mounjaro the first and only medicine for obstructive sleep apnoea in Australia and marks a significant milestone in the treatment of the widespread sleep disorder.

Professor Brendon Yee, Respiratory and Sleep Physician at the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research, said the news was a “long-awaited development” in the field of sleep medicine.

“For the first time, people with weight-related obstructive sleep apnoea can be treated with a medicine that addresses the underlying cause of their condition,” said Professor Yee, who was involved in a major clinical trial of Mounjaro for obstructive sleep apnoea.

“Obstructive sleep apnoea can affect anyone, and obesity is the single greatest cause of the condition,” he explained, saying obesity accounts for at least 70% of people living with obstructive sleep apnoea.

The drug is not PBS listed for sleep apnoea, but is available on private prescription.

Rural COVID vax concern

PHARMACISTS practicing in remote and isolated towns across Australia have expressed concerns around the ongoing viability of COVID vaccination services following cuts to payments for COVID vaccination administration to align with NIPVIP rates, with rural loadings no longer applying.

The Pharmacy Program Administrator (PPA) announced that from 01 Jul 2025, the payment for administering vaccines will be \$20.05 regardless of location.

Prior to 01 Jul, payment for administering the COVID vaccine in major cities (MM1) was \$28.35, while in regional, rural and remote locations (MM2-7) it was \$31.60.

“It is already unviable for many remote and isolated pharmacies, under the current payment structure, to deliver vaccination services to their communities and this reduction in payment is likely to further exacerbate the barriers to delivery, leading to even poorer access to these services,” said a spokesperson for the Remote and Isolated Pharmacist Association Australia (RIPAA).

“This is particularly concerning given the relatively low uptake of COVID boosters nationally in the last six to 12 months and the continuing high rates of infection.”

RIPAA agrees that rural loadings should not extend to larger cities such as Hobart and Cairns, as they



have done, and is advocating that rural support should be reserved for the “real rural communities” - MM4-7- that lack healthcare access and have higher workforce costs than regional centres (**PD 22 May**).

RIPAA also pointed out that the Regional Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance (RPMA) does not provide adequate supports to enable smaller isolated and remote pharmacies to deliver the expanding array of non-dispensing programs such as NIPVIP and COVID vaccinations, Home Medicines Reviews (HMRs) and the Aged Care Onsite Pharmacist (ACOP).

“RPMA remains crucial to ensure the viability of pharmacies in thin markets, but it simply is not adequate to support services, where another pharmacist is needed to deliver those services,” the spokesperson said.

“If real rural pharmacies are to deliver expanded services, greater recognition must be given to the challenges and higher costs of delivering services in isolated rural and remote locations,” they concluded. **KB**

Call for free RSV vax for those at risk

THIS Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Awareness Week, GPs are urging federal, state, and territory governments to make the RSV vaccination free for at-risk groups and protect society’s most vulnerable.

Australia has passed 60,000 RSV cases this year so far, with more than half of reported cases occurring in babies and children aged under four and almost 20% among over 60s.

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) President Dr Michael Wright said: “RSV hits our communities hard every year, with serious and sometimes life-threatening consequences for babies, young children, older people, and people with chronic health conditions.”

Dr Wright noted that the Federal Government provides free vaccines for pregnant women to protect them and their babies, with state and territory governments funding immunisation for babies who do not already have protection from the mother’s vaccination.

However, free RSV vaccines for other at-risk groups are not funded nationally and programs vary from state to state.

“What we really need to see now is all vaccines recommended in the Australian Immunisation Handbook to be freely available for every at-risk group,” Dr Wright said.



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Dispensary Corner

WE KNOW that an apple a day can keep the doctor away, or so they say, but as it turns out, so can chickpeas.

A new study from the Illinois Institute of Technology found that eating a tin of the high-fibre legume every day could stave off a heart attack.

Participants were randomly assigned to eat either one cup of black beans, chickpeas, or rice - which was the control group - every day for 12 weeks.

Blood samples were taken at the start of the study, half-way through and again six weeks later to track cholesterol, blood sugar levels and inflammation.

At the end of the study, those who added tinned chickpeas to their daily diet saw their originally high cholesterol levels (5.2mmol/L) drop to within the normal range (4.8mmol/L).

"There are a lot of ways to incorporate beans into your regular diet as a cost-effective way to support overall health and reduce the risk of chronic diseases," said the lead author of the study, Professor Morganne Smith.

"You can blend them to add some thickness to a soup base, add them as a salad topping, or pair them with other grains like rice," she added.

Don't fret if you are not a fan of chickpeas, because the researchers also found that the group who ate the black beans also enjoyed health benefits, with their inflammation levels significantly lower after the three months.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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

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Hartley's Gripe Water



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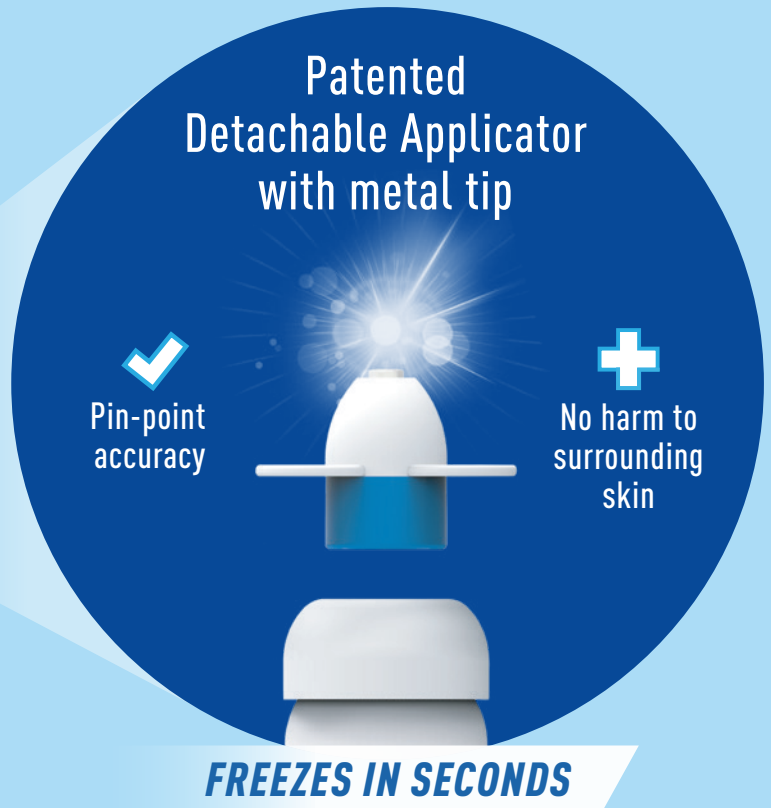
The product helps reduce the occurrence of excess intestinal wind and gas in infants and relieve the symptoms of infant colic. It does not contain artificial sweeteners.

Supplier: Available from Symbion, Sigma & API. Contact your Clear Sales representative on 1800 640 043 for special deals.

RRP: \$10.51 - 200ml bottle.

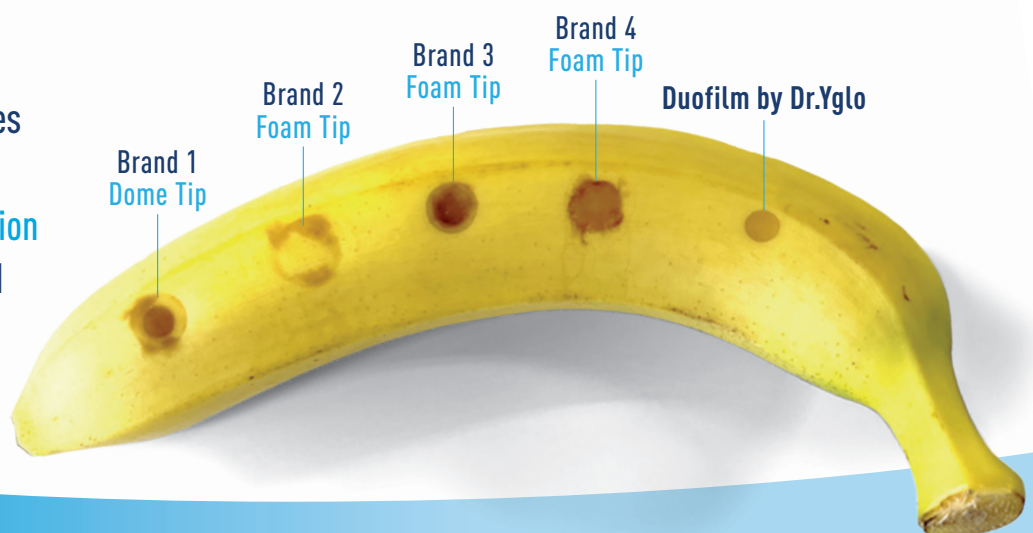
Website: [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Recommend Duofilm Wart Freeze treatment for effective common & plantar warts removal



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