

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of industry news, plus a full page from **Independent Pharmacies Australia**.

Holiday Monday

THERE will be no issue of Pharmacy Daily on Mon 09 Jun due to the King's Birthday long weekend in many states.

We will be back on Tuesday.

In the Spotlight

OUR Wednesday Product Spotlight page has become so popular that we have added another opportunity to feature your products on Fridays.

Today we look at **Thuasne's GenuExtrem** knee support.

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

Sandoz calling for biosimilar policy reforms

SANDOZ, a global leader in generic and biosimilar medicines, has released new whitepaper outlining a vision for improving healthcare sustainability in Australia, including how policy reforms could save the PBS up to \$75 million per biosimilar therapy while significantly expanding patient access and reducing healthcare costs.

Despite the proven benefits of biosimilars, Australia's uptake for key biosimilar medicines used in autoimmune diseases remains at just 35%, compared to an OECD average of 67%, Sandoz pointed out.

Much if this is due to barriers facing patients, clinicians and pharmacists, including no difference in patients' out-of-pocket costs for biosimilars versus reference biologics; complex PBS administrative requirements for prescribers; and a lack of price incentives for prescribers to recommend biosimilars.

Meanwhile, an increase in chronic

and complex diseases will likely result in increased use of biologics.

The whitepaper, *Pioneering Access for Patients Through Biosimilar Medicines*, is the outcome of a Canberra summit earlier this year (**PD** 12 Feb), where key stakeholders, such as patient advocacy groups, healthcare professionals and pharmacists, reached consensus on the need for modest, evidence-based reforms.

Sandoz has proposed four key policy reforms:

1. Lower patient co-payments, so they pay half-price for biosimilars;
2. Mandate biosimilars for patients newly starting biologics, unless there is good reason not to;
3. Reduce administrative burden for prescribers by reducing PBS Authority requirements and reducing paperwork;
4. Reinvest savings into a chronic disease future fund to support healthcare initiatives and workforce development.

"The Sandoz whitepaper marks

a pivotal moment in our ongoing and collaborative efforts to pioneer healthcare access and affordability for patients across the country," said Chad Rieger, Head of Medical Affairs & Policy at Sandoz.

"By addressing the barriers to biosimilar uptake and proposing practical policy measures to improve access and alleviate the burden on the current system, we aim to create a more sustainable healthcare system that benefits patients, clinicians, and the government alike to create better health outcomes for all."

Read the whitepaper **HERE**.

LEAD in pharmacy

INDEPENDENT Pharmacies Australia is holding a Pharmacist Academy based on the four pillars of practice transformation: learn, engage, advance and deliver (LEAD). See details on **page five**.

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Summit bigger than ever



WITH only four weeks to go until the Pharmacy Careers Summit on Fri 04 Jul 2025, Heidi Dariz, General Manager at Raven's Recruitment, spoke to **Pharmacy Daily** about the buzz surrounding this year's event.

"When we first envisaged the Summit, we knew it would be valuable for pharmacists at all stages of their careers - but the level of engagement and support from across the pharmacy sector has genuinely exceeded our expectations," Dariz said.

"The industry has embraced it in such a holistic and enthusiastic way which has been both humbling and thrilling to witness."

According to Dariz, the 2025 summit is set to be the most impactful yet.

"We've taken it up a notch this year," she said.

"All the major pharmacy banner groups are involved, and we're delighted to now also welcome Chemist Warehouse and Independent Pharmacies Australia as exhibitors.

"Whether you're a pharmacy student, intern, early-career or

experienced pharmacist, the employment opportunities on offer are immense."

In addition to the ever-growing virtual trade show, the summit's virtual auditorium will feature more than 50 speakers representing the most influential organisations in the sector.

"Every session will have a strong focus on careers in pharmacy - from pathways and progression to innovation and leadership," Dariz explained.

She also acknowledged the support of key industry bodies and sponsors.

"We're especially grateful to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia for their leadership and continued advocacy.

"Our sincere thanks also go to Symbion and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) for their major sponsorship and backing."

The event is free to register and fully virtual, with great prizes on offer from Glucojel.

"You can truly immerse yourself in this dynamic and inspiring event from wherever you are," Dariz said.

Click [HERE](#) to register. *KB*

3mL Ozempic pens to replace 1.5mL

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised there is a new 3mL presentation of Ozempic (semaglutide) 0.25mg/ 0.5mg pre-filled pen now available and listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

It will gradually replace the 1.5mL presentation of the pre-filled pen, which will be discontinued in Dec 2025.

Both pre-filled pens deliver the same semaglutide dose - either 0.25mg or 0.5mg per dose.

However, the new 3mL pen is larger and injects a slightly larger volume per dose.

Both presentations are considered interchangeable to deliver either 0.25mg or 0.5mg of semaglutide per dose.

Both products also have the same approved indications, the same administration method and dosing instructions, and contain the same number of doses per pen.

At present, the two sizes are not interchangeable on the PBS, but the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is working to a-flag the two presentations and expects this to be in place on 01 July 2025.

Until then, if a patient presents a PBS prescription for the 1.5mL presentation and pharmacists only have access to the new 3mL presentation, patients will need a new PBS script for the 3mL presentation from their prescriber, or to pay for a private prescription.

Pharmacists are asked to inform patients that the new 3mL pre-filled pen presentation of Ozempic 0.25mg/0.5mg looks slightly different to the 1.5mL product they previously received, but it delivers the same dose of active ingredient, contains the same number of doses and has the same instructions for administration and dosing.

More info is available [HERE](#).

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Reference: 1. <https://compliance.health.gov.au/artg/search=melatonin> cited 09/05/2025.

Boosting pregnancy trial participation

The European Medicines Agency has released a guideline for public consultation providing recommendations on how to include and/or retain pregnant and breastfeeding people in clinical trials.

If adopted, it will mark a change in paradigm in the development of medicines in pregnancy and breastfeeding, which generally excludes pregnant and breastfeeding people from clinical trials, leaving the safety of these medicines unknown.

The guideline suggests these groups should be considered for all medicines intended for people who can potentially give birth to children, and lays out the principles and conditions that should be met to ensure the safety of clinical trial participants, as well as their fetuses and babies.

Star Discount Chemist teams up on travel

STAR Discount Chemist has announced the launch of a new, streamlined online travel medicine service designed to make expert care more convenient and accessible for South Australians heading overseas.

Developed in collaboration with Glide Online Travel Clinic, and directed by Infectious Diseases Physician Dr James Knox, the service combines telehealth consultations with local pharmacy support to provide the preventive support travellers need.

With Glide, patients can consult with an experienced Australian travel doctor from home, then visit a nearby Star Discount Chemist to fill prescriptions, receive recommended vaccinations, and pick up other travel essentials.

"Travel medicine lends itself perfectly to telehealth, and our patients really appreciate the convenience," Dr Knox said.

"It's a great example of how technology, used well, can enhance

the quality of care we deliver."

With South Australian pharmacists able to authorise and administer travel vaccines such as cholera, rabies and typhoid, Star Discount Chemist Chief Pharmacist, Shannon Hewitt, is excited to launch the travel medicine service across its pharmacies.

"The roll-out of pharmacist travel vaccination means that Star Discount Chemist can now provide even better, more comprehensive care for our patients and communities," Hewitt said.

"It's an exciting step forward that aligns perfectly with our mission to make healthcare simple by providing timely and equitable access for all South Australians," she enthused.

Star Discount Chemist Rostrevor Pharmacist Manager, Johnny Silvestri, said that the new travel service is a valuable addition to the trusted care they already provide in



their communities.

"We've always been the first port of call for local health advice, and now we can support our patients with expert travel health care too - safely, conveniently, and all under one roof."

Glide also offers its online travel medicine clinic service in NSW (PD 05 Mar), ACT and Tasmania. KB

Pictured: Johnny Silvestri, Pharmacist Manager, Star Discount Chemist Rostrevor; Dr James Knox, Director, Glide Online Travel Clinic; Shannon Hewitt, Chief Pharmacist, Star Pharmacy Group.

The countdown is on - PCS25 is one month away!

With just one month to go, excitement is building for the Pharmacy Careers Summit 2025! This year's event is shaping up to be the best yet, with new sessions just added – including a must-see Hospital Pharmacy Panel. PCS25 is the pharmacy careers event of the year, bringing together 50+ expert speakers, major employers, and peak bodies for one dynamic day. Don't miss your chance to explore career opportunities, hear industry insights, win prizes, and climb the leaderboard. It's all happening Friday, 4 July, mark your calendar!

REGISTER TODAY!

Get ready to hear from speakers representing these organisations, and many more, live in the auditorium:



For every attendee, \$5 will be donated to the PSS, [register today!](#)



Friday, 4th July 2025

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www.pharmacycareerssummit.com.au

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Dispensary Corner

A WOMAN in the US died after using non-boiled tap water for a nasal flush.

The culprit was brain infection due to *Naegleria fowleri* amoeba, which was suspected to have come from the water supply of her motorhome.

The 71-year-old developed severe neurological symptoms, including fever, headache, altered mental status and seizures, four days after using a sinus flush squirt bottle filled with untreated water from the motorhome tap.

Despite receiving medical treatment for what was suspected to be amoebic meningoencephalitis infection, she died eight days after symptom onset.

The amoeba is found in warm freshwater, and can get to the brain after entering the nose when swimming in dams, lakes, and poorly maintained swimming pools, when water skiing or, as in this case, being used in a nasal flush.

The amoebae travel up the nose to the brain where they infect and destroy brain tissue.

The US woman had bought her motorhome three months earlier, and was using the water that was in the tank when she got it - plenty of time for the little critters to multiply.

The doctors who treated her said the case reinforces the potential for serious health risks associated with improper use of nasal irrigation devices, and recommended distilled, sterilised, or boiled and cooled tap water be used.

Volunteers increase cardiac arrest survival

RESEARCH looking at the impact of volunteer responders attending cardiac arrests has found that patients are 37% more likely to survive than when attended by emergency services alone.

A smartphone-activated volunteer responder (SAVR) program utilising the GoodSAM app works by alerting nearby registered volunteer responders to attend out-of-hospital cardiac arrests.

When the ambulance service receives a call, it sends out emergency medical services (EMS) and also alerts nearby SAVRs, if appropriate (dangerous or potentially traumatising cases are not eligible for SAVR attendance).

SAVRs may be health professionals or other suitably qualified adults who can commence cardiopulmonary resuscitation

(CPR) or use an automatic external defibrillator (AED) if they arrive before emergency services, and assist if needed when emergency services arrive.

Using data from Victoria, where the program has been operating since 2018, the researchers looked at the likelihood of patient survival, bystander CPR and bystander defibrillation for cases of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in which at least one SAVR arrived before EMS, compared with cases in which EMS arrived first.

Of around 9,000 cases of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest included in the analysis, almost 1,200 had been attended by SAVRs, of which around half arrived before EMS and half arrived after.

They found that when the SAVR arrived before EMS, the odds of

a patient's survival to hospital discharge were increased by 37%.

Patients were around seven times more likely to receive bystander CPR, and 16 times more likely to receive bystander defibrillation when attended by SAVRs before EMS arrived.

"Smartphone-activated volunteer responder programs could increase the likelihood of survival after out-of-hospital cardiac arrest if responders arrive before emergency medical services," concluded the authors.

"Volunteer response times should be improved, and safeguards developed for limiting the exposure of volunteer responders to distressing cases, particularly for responders arriving after paramedics," they added.

Read the paper **HERE**. KB

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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

Get back to things you love with Thuasne – GenuExtrem knee support

Thuasne's GenuExtrem is a proprioceptive knee support with flexible stays, and may help to relieve symptoms of mild, unidentified pain, assist in proprioception, and return to sport and daily activities after injury.

Key benefits:

- Elastic fabric providing good support and proprioception.
- Anatomically-shaped with extra-soft zones over the kneecap and behind the knee for comfort.
- Flexible lateral reinforcements providing good support.
- Silicon 'anti-slip zone' for the brace to stay in place.

RRP: \$52.00

Stockists: Thuasne products can be ordered through API and Symbion.

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



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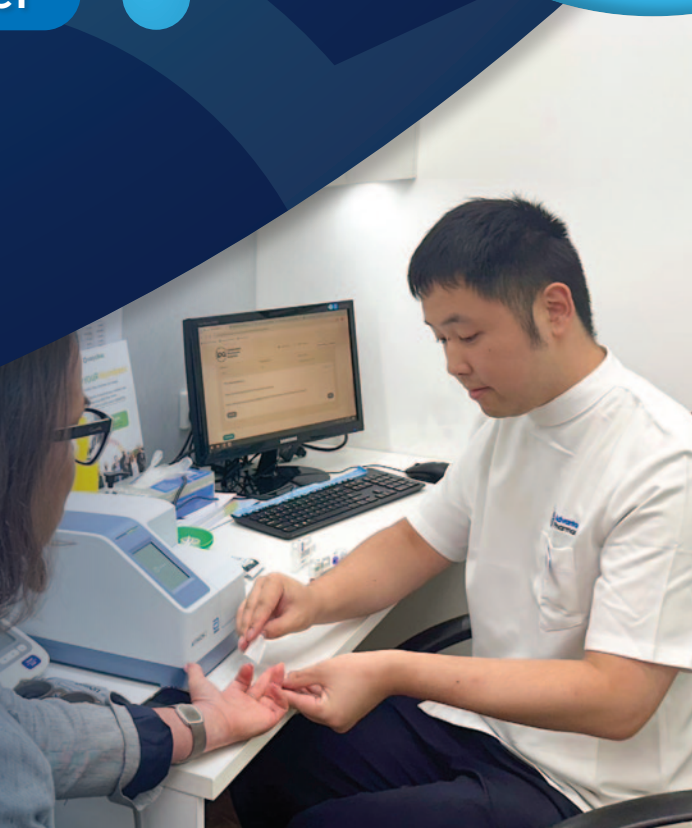
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