

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Therapeutic Guidelines
- Direct Chemist Outlet

Antibiotics update

THERAPEUTIC Guidelines has published a major update of its antibiotics guidelines.

Designed by clinicians for clinicians, the extensive multidisciplinary update supports improved patient outcomes.

See details on **page four**.

New MD at MedReleaf

MEDICAL cannabis company MedReleaf has announced the departure of Kristin Viccars, current Interim Managing Director of Medreleaf Australia, effective 11 Jul.

After thanking Viccars for his service, Andre Jerome, EVP Global Business Development, welcomed Stan Sack as Interim Managing Director for MedReleaf Australia.

"Stan is known to many in the cannabis industry, bringing direct sector experience and depth of knowledge across operations, marketing, product development and sales," Jerome said.

"We are very pleased to have Stan join the MedReleaf team, and to provide important continuity to [our customers] and our partnership."

Time for action on harmonisation

THE Australian Government has released its new National Immunisation Strategy to guide Australia's fight against vaccine-preventable diseases over the next five years, with pharmacists playing a key role in workforce objectives.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has renewed calls for national harmonisation of pharmacist immunisers' scope, saying now is the time for action.

Immunisation is one of the main lines of defence against vaccine-preventable diseases, and while Australia's vaccination rates remain high, they have fallen in the wake of the COVID pandemic.

With input from healthcare professionals, health experts, state and territory government representatives and the community, the National Immunisation Strategy for Australia 2025-2030 sets a vision for a healthier Australia through immunisation, emphasising a whole-of-system approach.

The strategy is one of the first deliverables of the interim Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC), with the PSA welcoming the CDC's backing of pharmacists' full scope vaccination.

PSA National President Associate Professor Fei Sim said a nationally consistent approach to regulating vaccination is a critical step to improving uptake within the community.

"There should be no wrong door when it comes to vaccination," Associate Professor Sim said.

"Harmonising the regulation of pharmacist-administered vaccines is overdue - it just makes sense.



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"Now it has been recommended by a number of policy leaders, from the Interim Australian Centre for Disease Control to the Grattan Institute," she continued.

"Now is the time for all stakeholders - state governments, Federal Government, peak bodies, vaccine providers and Australian patients - to come together and make the changes needed to ensure all Australians have equal access to preventative healthcare."

A/Prof Sim pointed out that the Australian Immunisation Handbook should be the national standard for defining vaccine formularies, instead of relying on complex regulatory instruments unique to each state and territory.

"The National Immunisation Strategy has supported this approach - now it's time for action."

"Regardless of where someone lives, whether in metropolitan or remote Australia, whether in NSW or Western Australia, everyone should be able to go to any vaccination provider and receive the vaccines they need," A/Prof Sim concluded. **KB**

Read the national strategy **HERE**.

Pharmacists first

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If you are ready to escape corporate control, learn more about what DCO can offer on **page five**.

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

Countdown is on for PSA25

WITH only seven weeks until the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) kicks off its premier national conference, PSA25, with National President Associate Professor Fei Sim is calling on pharmacists to secure their place "to take their professional growth to the next level".

Held at the ICC in Sydney from 01 to 03 Aug, PSA25 will bring together pharmacists and industry leaders from around the country to learn, inspire and connect with their profession.

"With patient health needs and expectations growing, our profession must keep pace and evolve with it," A/Prof Sim said.

"We want to do more, and we know we can do more, but it requires all of us to constantly affirm our commitment to strengthening our practice."

A/Prof Sim said the focus for PSA25 is to provide pharmacists with essential knowledge and skills to create a strong foundation while also acknowledging "the passion areas that make each pharmacist's practice unique".

"Full scope of practice, dermatology, artificial intelligence and vaccination are dominant themes in this year's program, reflecting feedback from members in our 2024 Member Census," she added.

To learn more, click [HERE](#).

Bowel cancer screening call

BOWEL cancer screening rates have again fallen short of targets, leading the Pharmacy Guild of Australia to call for a change in approach that leverages the expertise and accessibility of community pharmacy.

The latest Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) Monitoring Report 2025 showed a marginal increase in participation to 41.7%, up from 40% in 2022 and 40.9% in 2021; however it is still well below the target rate of 55%.

Between 01 Jan 2022 and 31 Dec 2023, 6.28 million Australians aged 50-74 were invited to participate in the program, yet nearly six in 10 did not return their free bowel cancer screening test.

"The current approach isn't working," Professor Trent Twomey, National President Pharmacy Guild of Australia said.

"Australia needs to make the most of all its health professionals to increase early screening - community pharmacists know their community and their patients.

"They already play a key role in supporting patient health, including sensitive conversations, and are well placed to help educate patients on the ease, reliability and importance of these life-saving tests."

Prof Twomey pointed out that community pharmacies also have a strong cold chain, allowing a return to year-round testing and an end to the program's pause during the summer months.

Julien Wiggins, Bowel Cancer Australia CEO, noted that bowel



cancer is Australia's second deadliest cancer, but if detected early, almost 99% of bowel cancer cases can be successfully treated.

"Mobilising other health professionals - like community pharmacists - to deliver and support screening will further encourage participation and help the program maximise its life-saving potential," Wiggins said.

Free testing is currently offered every two years to people aged 50-74, but medical guidelines state healthcare professionals could consider offering a screening blood test every two years for those aged 40-44 and 75-85.

These tests are available to purchase at community pharmacies. Jane Hoffman, pharmacist and Bowel Cancer Ambassador, lost her husband, Marty, to bowel cancer at age 42.

"Easier, more accessible screening and better public education are key to making sure more people get an early diagnosis," she said.

"Community pharmacists having conversations with patients about screening and watching for early signs of bowel cancer will play an important role in normalising that conversation," Hoffman continued.

"Young dads like Marty might test earlier if prompted by a community pharmacist." KB

MM2025 earlybird opens

ADVANCED Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has opened earlybird registrations for Australia's largest and most influential scientific pharmacy conference, Medicines Management 2025 (MM2025).

The conference will shine a spotlight on pharmacy practice across Australian hospitals and adjacent care settings, spearheaded by keynote speakers Jana Pittman, Joel Pearson and Dr Sandro Demaio (PD 05 Jun).

AdPha Vice President Dr Kate O'Hara said the blockbuster conference will "showcase pharmacy in motion in Victoria's buzzing capital, home to international hubs of healthcare and innovation".

"It's exciting to open earlybird registrations for Australia's largest scientific pharmacy conference, which offers unparalleled inspiration and connection to take you and your team higher.

"Whether it's your first or 15th Medicines Management, one thing remains the same: this is where it all happens," Dr O'Hara enthused.

MM2025 will take place from 27-29 Nov at the Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre.

AdPha has also announced two new abstract Q&A sessions, with submissions closing 02 July.

Find out more [HERE](#).

Australians spent \$1.3 billion more at pharmacies last year

What's driving the trend?

Read CommBank Health Insights

*CommBank iQ Market Monitor iQ. Health industry spending between April 2024 and March 2025.





Dispensary Corner

JUST when you think you have heard of every weight loss hack, a new one emerges.

The latest suggestion for keeping kilos at bay doesn't require you to spend money, eat something weird, or exert yourself in any way - *and* it's backed by science.

German researchers recently discovered that smelling your food before you eat it could help you stay slim, triggering a feeling of fullness that may prevent people from overeating.

The scientists looked at brain scans of mice as they responded to food odours, and were able to identify a specific group of nerve cells in the brain that have a direct connection to the nose.

The mice ate less when these cells were activated before eating, but only when they were exposed to food smells and not other aromas.

While it hasn't been yet been determined if the same process of sniffing to suppress appetite could work on humans, the signs are positive, with authors noting that our brains contain the same group of nerve cells responsible for the reaction as the mice in the study.

Thankfully, there is absolutely no harm in giving it a go.

However, the researchers pointed out that it won't work for people who are already overweight, as obese mice didn't have the same brain reaction when they smelled food.



Send flu patients to study

A **MAJOR** study involving universities around Australia is utilising pharmacies to recruit people with flu-like symptoms, with the aim of understanding how common these persistent illnesses are.

Led by the University of Melbourne, the Doherty Institute, the Kirby Institute at UNSW Sydney and the University of Adelaide, the landmark OUTPOST study will use this information to inform clinical practice and improve health and wellbeing.

The study will track symptoms in people aged 12 years or older from the onset of acute infection with one of the 'big three' respiratory viruses: COVID, influenza (flu) and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

There will be check-ins at six weeks, three months, six months and one year, providing real-time insights into the impact of the infection and the time taken to recover.

OUTPOST researcher Professor Nigel Stocks, Head of the Discipline of General Practice at the University of Adelaide, is encouraging people experiencing flu-like symptoms to enrol in the study, and pharmacists can help by informing patients about it.

Enrolment is available online for anyone across the country, or through a selection of pharmacies and GP clinics in NSW, South Australia and Victoria.

"Ideally, when someone stays unwell after one of these acute infections, support should be available through primary care teams, including doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners," Professor Stocks said.

"However, this type of multi-disciplinary care is not always readily accessible.



"Through the OUTPOST study, we will map what care pathways currently exist and where there are gaps to guide improvements in care delivery in the future."

Participants will receive free rapid antigen tests (for COVID, flu and RSV) and \$110 worth of vouchers upon completion of the study.

Patients and pharmacists can find out more about the study **HERE**. *KB*

Int'l Overdose Awareness Day

PENINGTON Institute has produced downloadable resources focused on preventing overdose ahead of International Overdose Awareness Day on 31 Aug.

The drug policy research non-profit organisation believes that lasting change happens when communities are empowered to find their own solutions, and is encouraging people to have a conversation about overdose prevention.

Among the resources pharmacists may find useful is an education kit, which includes printable information about risk factors for opioid overdose; pain patients and opioid dependence; naloxone; and medication-assisted treatment for overcoming opioid dependence.

Learn more about International Overdose Awareness Day **HERE**.

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EXTENSIVE ANTIBIOTIC GUIDELINES UPDATE 2025

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