

Today's issue of PD

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

- Duofilm by Dr. Yglo
- Direct Chemist Outlet

Freeze warts

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

See details on [page five](#).

Pharmacists first

DIRECT Chemist Outlet (DCO) puts pharmacy owners first and delivers what matters.

If you are ready to escape corporate control, see what DCO can offer on [page six](#).

ACSS payments automated

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) has advised that Additional Community Supply Support (ACSS) will be automated from 01 Jul 2025, after which time ACSS payments for eligible supplies will be included with regular PBS online claims payments.

Payments for the periods ending 30 Mar 2025 and 30 Jun 2025 will continue to be made manually, after the PBS online system payments solution is in place.

See the [WEBSITE](#) for more.

New standards for nicotine vapes

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised that starting 01 Jul 2025, strengthened standards will come into effect for all therapeutic vaping goods for smoking cessation and nicotine dependence, with existing supplies in pharmacies likely to be affected.

Pharmacies can only supply vapes that meet the TGA's stronger safety and quality product standards, which include stricter requirements for ingredients, flavours, packaging and labelling.

The TGA recommends pharmacists take action to ensure they are prepared for the changes on 01 Jul.

This includes reviewing the pharmacy's inventory to identify any vape products that do not meet the strengthened products standards, and removing non-compliant vapes.

These should be disposed of properly or returned to the supplier.

Pharmacists may need to educate pharmacy staff to ensure they are aware of the new standards, product compliance and availability, and alternative brands.

The TGA also recommends communicating with consumers and prescribers about the changes to vaping product standards, and available products.

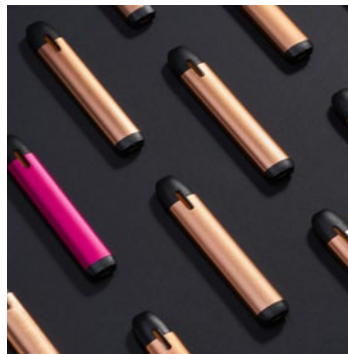
"It is important to remember that vapes are not recommended as the first-line treatment for smoking cessation support," a spokesperson for the TGA said.

"First-line treatments include behavioural support and TGA-approved nicotine replacement

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therapy products such as patches, gum, and lozenges - some of which are subsidised under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme."

The TGA published the enhanced product standards for therapeutic vaping goods in Oct last year, giving manufacturers time to update their products for compliance.

The enhanced product standards were designed to mitigate certain risks associated with therapeutic vape use, and were developed as part of the vaping reforms, which has also strengthened regulation of all vaping goods since 01 Jul 2024.

As a result of this, products that do not meet the new standards will be removed from the notified vape list, and may be replaced by new products that have been stated to comply with the new standards.

To date, the TGA has not received any application from a sponsor of a vape product for inclusion in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG), meaning that the TGA has not evaluated any therapeutic vaping good for safety, quality, effectiveness or performance.

For more info, click [HERE](#). KB

WA scope gets \$1.3m boost

THE Western Australian Government has earmarked \$1.3 million in its 2025-6 budget for a pilot program to expand pharmacist scope of practice.

The enhanced access community pharmacy pilot was announced last year, and builds on the success of the recent scope expansion to include urinary tract infection treatment and the oral contraceptive pill.

It is expected to be up and running in 2027.

The money will be used to provide training for pharmacists to deliver care for conditions such as mild to moderate shingles, acne, dermatitis, musculoskeletal pain and inflammation, nausea and wound management.

So far, the existing programs have helped more than 7,000 women in WA across 500 community pharmacies.

The Cook Government said it will work with the Pharmacy Guild, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and other parties to ensure the programs are properly rolled out.

The funding is part of a \$1.4 billion health spend package designed to deliver on the government's vision to enhance access to the health system, with a boost to hospital services as well as other major health-related election commitments.

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.



PATY2025 state winners

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Professor Trent Twomey, was delighted to announce that eight pharmacy assistants representing each Australian state and territory have been selected to compete for the national title of the 2025 Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award (PATY).

"Now in its 19th year, PATY acknowledges the exceptional dedication to patient care and proactive commitment to professional development shown by pharmacy assistants," Prof Twomey said.

"Our finalists have embodied this and more," Prof Twomey added.

The judging process took place over a full-day virtual workshop, where state and territory finalists demonstrated their pharmacy knowledge and leadership skills.

The following pharmacy assistants were selected to represent their state or territory in the national finals in September:

- ACT - Stephanie Crowe, Erindale Pharmacy;
- NSW - Yasmin Elmawey, Hammondville Discount Pharmacy;
- NT - Melissa Dass, Territory Pharmacy Alice Springs;
- Qld - Sarah Butler, LiveLife Pharmacy Plainland (PD 19 Jun);
- SA - Jorden Oschmanns, Priceline Pharmacy Goolwa;
- Tas - Tenielle Chilcott, TerryWhite Chemmart Valley Road Devonport;
- Vic - Jessica Brown, Emerald Village Pharmacy;
- WA - Sashe Austin, Priceline



Pharmacy Spencer Park.

Prof Twomey congratulated the winners for their valuable contribution to Australian community pharmacy, and said, "You should be very proud to be recognised among the top eight pharmacy assistants in Australia."

Award judges, Artie Kalogeropoulos and Daniel Shalhoub from AFT Pharmaceuticals, the award's major sponsor, were also delighted with the selection.

"It has been wonderful to see so many qualified pharmacy assistants participating in this year's PATY judging," they shared.

"We congratulate them all on being chosen as the winners and representatives for their state at the national finals."

The PATY2025 national winner and Glucojel runner up will be announced at the Pharmacy Connect conference cocktail party on Thu 04 Sep, which will take place aboard a Sydney Harbour cruise.

Pharmacy assistants get 50% off full registration for Pharmacy Connect, and this can be combined with the earlybird discount, which ends 30 Jun.

Click [HERE](#) to register. KB

Diabetes costs health system \$9.1b annually

AUSTRALIA'S diabetes epidemic is costing the health system \$9.1 billion each year, which is almost three times more than previously thought, according to updated estimates from Diabetes Australia.

With more than two million people living with all types of diagnosed and undiagnosed diabetes, it is considered to be one of the greatest health challenges facing Australia.

The analysis takes into account national and international evidence of the excess health costs of diabetes, and the current prevalence of diabetes.

Diabetes Australia noted that someone is newly diagnosed every five minutes, and without strong investment in prevention, up to 3.6 million people could be living with diabetes by 2050.

Diabetes Australia's Group CEO Justine Cain said the latest estimates sound a warning for governments and healthcare providers that Australia's

diabetes epidemic requires an emergency response.

"The cost of diabetes to individuals and our nation is staggering, and without urgent action to reverse the current trend, our health system will be overwhelmed," Cain said.

"We need a raft of initiatives to help prevent type 2 diabetes where we can, and prevent the costly complications of all types of diabetes in people who are already living with the condition."

Diabetes Australia has pointed to awareness programs for melanoma and breast cancer that have delivered successful prevention outcomes, advocating for the same focus on diabetes.

"We need a national diabetes prevention approach, backed by increased awareness, school-based initiatives, and policies like better food labelling to reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes and its complications," Cain said.

"Investing in prevention is an investment in Australia's future."



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



Carotenoids head off screen eyes

NEW Australian research has reported that two natural antioxidants in the carotenoid family, lutein and zeaxanthin, may support the eye health of people who spend long hours in front of digital screens.

The trial investigated the effects of taking Lute-gen extract (lutein and zeaxanthin) for six months in 70 healthy adults who reported using screens for more than six hours per day.

There were improvements reported in key eye health markers including visual sharpness, dry eye measures and macular recovery function, with no serious adverse events.

With screen time rising across all age groups, study lead Dr Adrian Lopresti said the results provide timely clinical evidence for solutions supporting visual health.

MOU to advance Aussie life sciences

MACQUARIE University and Vitex Pharmaceuticals have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a long-term strategic partnership, with the aim of advancing Australia's life sciences industry.

The partnership marks a significant step in fostering collaboration between academia and industry with the shared goal of building a sustainable and innovation-led pharmaceutical ecosystem across Australia.

Speaking at the signing of the MOU, Professor Dan Johnson, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Enterprise), highlighted the alignment between the university's research ambitions and the industry's evolving needs.

"This agreement marks an exciting step forward in uniting our academic strengths with industry leadership," he said.

"Together with Vitex, we aim to catalyse innovation and ensure that Australian research has a

direct and sustainable impact on global health."

For Vitex, the MOU represents a continuation of its commitment to investing in Australia's sovereign manufacturing capability and scientific workforce.

Reflecting on the significance of the partnership, Dr Aniss Chami, CEO of Vitex Pharmaceuticals, said, "As an Australian company committed to quality and innovation in therapeutic manufacturing, we are proud to partner with Macquarie University to develop a talent pipeline, advance R&D, and build a circular and resilient pharmaceutical economy."

The long-term vision of the two parties revolves around creating a highly skilled, industry-ready workforce; expanding academic and industry research collaboration; supporting the commercialisation efforts of start-ups and SMEs; and exploring how the sector can move towards a

more sustainable, circular model of pharmaceutical development and production.

In formulating the MOU, emphasis was placed on building shared research capabilities in therapeutic development and manufacturing, and generating new economic thinking to support sovereign capability in health and medicine.

Professor Leonie Tickle, Dean of Macquarie Business School, noted the broader impact the partnership would have on Macquarie Business School's mission.

"This partnership reflects our vision to bring academia and industry together in practical and transformative ways," she said.

"It demonstrates how business education, research and industry collaboration can solve real-world challenges."

Shared initiatives in the pipeline include the potential development of new institutions or centres focused on pharmaceutical innovation. KB



Still time to register - PCS25 is in 2 weeks!



In just two weeks, the Pharmacy Careers Summit 2025 kicks off! Bringing together Australia's biggest pharmacy employers, peak bodies and over 50 expert speakers for a full day of insights, inspiration and real career opportunities. You'll have the chance to connect directly with the major pharmacy brands you know and admire, all in one place, on one big day.

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Dispensary Corner

A DOCTOR from Texas has revealed the foods that she deems too risky to eat at restaurants, due to the threat of deadly bacteria.

In a video posted to her Instagram, Dr Christine Adaee Nwoha told her followers to steer clear of four seemingly benign foods, which she said are actually high risk - lemon and lime slices, seafood, and even ice cubes.

Citrus slices are often cut from fruit that is "kicked around the floor, picked up and put back into the bin and then served to you", said the medic, who has seen many cases of food poisoning in her hospital patients.

Meanwhile, ice machines are often hard to clean, she added, making them "filthy, gunky and nasty" - and some of that bacteria may be strong enough to survive the freezing process.

Dr Nwoha said she also avoids eating under-cooked beef burgers, which she pointed out is different to eating rare steaks.

"A steak can have the bacteria like E. coli and salmonella on the outside, and then when you cook it and sear it, you kill that bacteria - so when you cut into it and it's rare on the inside, that's fine," she explained.

However, because a burger is made from minced beef, the bacteria is not confined to the outside surface of the patty.

"It may be cooked on the outside, but you still have meat on the inside that was exposed to bacteria at some point that's not being cooked, because you wanted it rare."

Taking care of knee osteoarthritis

KNEE braces, water therapy and exercise are the most beneficial non-drug therapies for knee osteoarthritis (KOA), according to a new meta-analysis of more than 100 clinical trials.

Researchers examined the current evidence on non-drug therapies for treating KOA.

They looked at data from 139 clinical trials involving nearly 10,000 people to compare 12 different non-drug treatments.

These included laser therapy, electrical stimulation, braces, insoles, kinesiology tape, water-based therapy, exercise and ultrasound.

Knee braces came out on top across most categories, including reducing pain, improving function and relieving stiffness.

Hydrotherapy - exercises or treatments performed in warm water - was found to be effective at easing pain, while general exercise was also consistently effective, improving both pain and physical function.

High-intensity laser therapy and shock wave therapy showed some benefits, while ultrasound consistently scored the lowest in effectiveness.

They concluded that physical therapy has promising effects on KOA, offering potential treatments that reduce pain and improve mobility without the gastrointestinal or cardiovascular risks linked to common pain medications.

"Our analysis of nearly 10,000 patients reveals that simple, accessible therapies like knee bracing and water-based exercise outperform high-tech options like ultrasound," wrote the authors.

"Patients and clinicians should prioritise these evidence-based

options," they added.

The authors noted that due to methodological differences, small sample sizes, and variability in treatment duration among the 139 included studies, the precision of the rankings may be reduced.

Future studies should examine the clinical efficacy of combined therapies, as well as their cost-effectiveness, they said.

"This could reshape clinical guidelines to focus on safer, lower-cost interventions."

Read the paper [HERE](#).

MEANWHILE, a study from Monash University has found that diabetes drug metformin can reduce the pain of people with KOA and overweight or obesity, possibly delaying the need for knee replacements.

The study included 107 participants with pain from KOA, but without diabetes, who took up to 2,000mg of metformin or a placebo for six months.

Knee pain was measured on a 0-100 scale, with 100 being the



worst pain.

The metformin group reported a 31.3 point reduction in pain after six months, compared to 18.9 for the placebo group, which was considered a "moderate" effect.

"These results support use of metformin for treatment of symptomatic knee osteoarthritis in people with overweight or obesity," the researchers concluded.

Study lead Professor Flavia Cicuttini said metformin now provided GPs with a safe and low-cost alternative they could offer patients, in addition to managing weight and increasing activity.

The full paper is [HERE](#). KB

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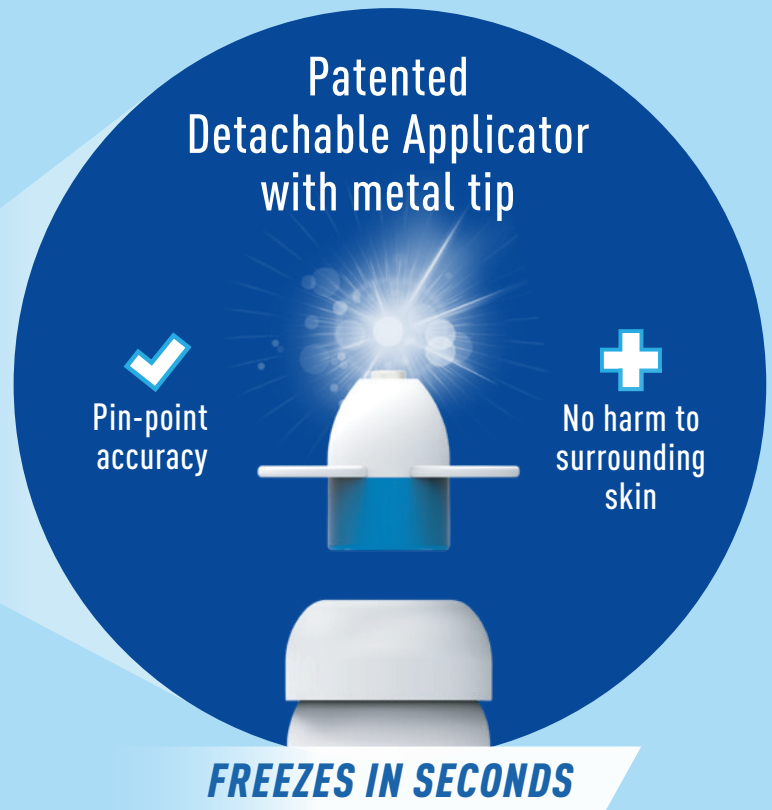
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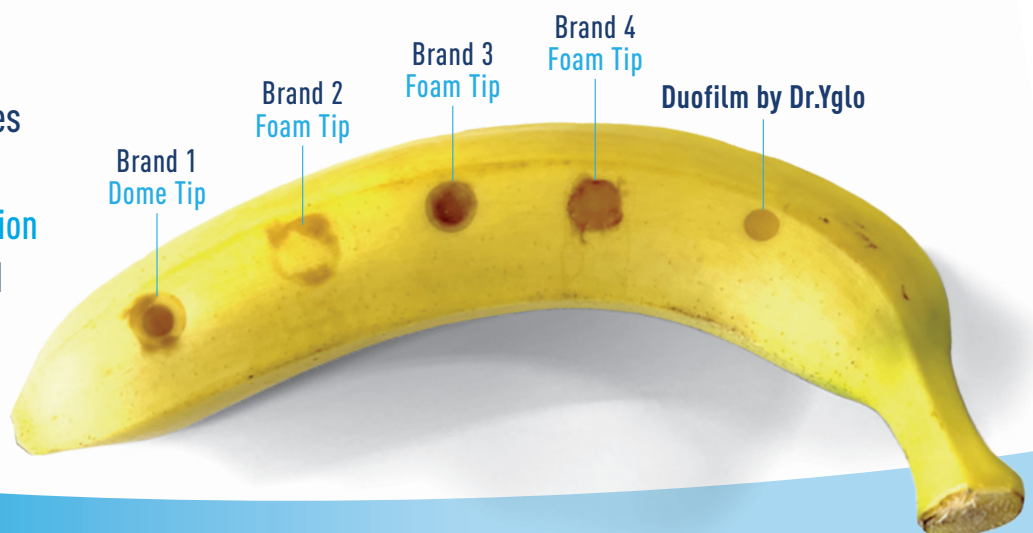
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