

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from Pharmacy Connect.

Earlybird last day

Today is the last day to take advantage of an earlybird discount for Pharmacy Connect 2025, saving you up to \$100. See **page four** for details.

Mounjaro now only in KwikPen

ELI Lilly has announced that its planned transition to the Mounjaro (tirzepatide) KwikPen is now complete, and the drug is only available in this presentation.

The previously available vial presentation is now discontinued, and Lilly said it is committed to ensuring the drug's ongoing availability.

APC does away with CPD standards

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has announced it will retire the Accreditation Standards for Continuing Professional Development Activities (CPD).

The decision to phase out the standards, which have been used by CPD accrediting organisations to accredit CPD activities since 2013, is designed to reflect the evolving needs of the sector.

It will now be the responsibility of individual pharmacists to determine whether a CPD activity is good quality, and it is expected they will continue to undertake activities that meet the needs of their planned CPD without accreditation.

"The Pharmacy Board of Australia does not mandate the need for CPD to be accredited by a third party," said APC Chief Executive Officer Bronwyn Clark (**pictured**).

"We also understand that they are intending to commence public consultation on their draft revised CPD Registration Standards shortly, and so the retirement of APC's



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standards is timely."

APC has implemented a transition plan for impacted CPD accrediting organisations, including the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, Advanced Pharmacy Australia and the Australasian College of Pharmacy.

CPD accreditation by the three organisations of activities against the APC standards may continue until 31 Dec 2025, after which this activity will cease.

Additionally, APC will keep the

CPD standards on their website for reference and accredited programs may continue to use the APC logos on their promotional material until 31 Dec 2026.

For participants who have enrolled in an accredited CPD activity, this activity will remain accredited until the expiry date.

"We maintain deep oversight of our accreditation process with degree programs, intern training programs, and pharmacist education programs - including education programs in Medicines Management Review, Aged Care Onsite Pharmacist programs, and Pharmacist Prescriber programs," Clark concluded.

For more information about expiry dates for individual activities, APC is advising that individuals contact the education provider delivering the activity.

Pharmacists who want to know more about the decision can refer to the FAQ section on APC's website, **HERE**. JM

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Cough cases rise

SKYROCKETING cases of whooping cough in Queensland and the Northern Territory have sparked calls for residents to get vaccinated.

The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) is urging the Queensland Government to make whooping cough vaccinations free for everyone.

Parts of the state have seen a 153% spike in cases compared to last year, with the south-west seeing 38 confirmed cases.

RACGP Queensland Chair Dr Cathryn Hester said she is concerned for infants due to the falling vaccination rate and signs of complacency.

"Apart from being very risky for infants and patients with low immune function, pertussis is downright uncomfortable and can result in severe airways sensitivity for months," Dr Hester said.

The organisation has called on the government to fund a vaccination program for people not covered by the National Immunisation Program.

In the Northern Territory, rates of the disease are eight times higher in 2025 than expected and can have dire consequences for children.

"Unfortunately, we're heading in the wrong direction in recent years on vaccination rates, and since the COVID-19 pandemic, some people have become more casual about other infectious diseases such as whooping cough," said RACGP NT Chair Dr Sam Heard.

Vitamin B6 to become S3

SUPPLEMENTS containing 50-200mg of vitamin B6 are proposed to be included in Schedule 3, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised.

Supplements containing more than 200mg are to remain S4.

The interim decision follows an application to amend the Poisons Standard entry of vitamin B6 based on increasing reports of people experiencing nerve damage as a result of excessive intake of the vitamin (**PD 05 Jun**).

In handing down the interim decision, the unnamed delegate to the Secretary of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing noted that it balances the limited benefits of supplemental vitamin B6 and its extensive use in listed medicines and fortified foods and beverages, against the risks of risks of peripheral neuropathy, including irreversible adverse effects.

The decision also took into account uncertainty about the total amount of vitamin B6 people consume and the current burden on consumers to calculate their total daily intake.

This is exacerbated by the different ingredient names used in labelling, which is inconsistent and confusing for consumers - pyridoxine, pyridoxine hydrochloride, pyridoxal 5-phosphate, and pyridoxal 5-phosphate monohydrate are used and not always described as vitamin B6.

In making products containing more than 50mg of vitamin B6 subject to discussion with a pharmacist, the "consultation can



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significantly help consumers in safe use of these supplements, including the difficulties of consumers determining their daily dosage, and reduce the risks from overuse, including potentially irreversible peripheral neuropathy", the delegated noted.

"The benefits of involving a healthcare professional in the decision to take dietary supplements should be encouraged where there are associated risks from use," they added.

The delegate considered that the original proposal to make supplements ranging from 5-200mg Schedule 3 was not supported in the literature and would impact more than 1,500 listed medicines, "imposing an immense regulatory burden for sponsors and pharmacies".

Meanwhile, the Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling argued in favour of the current scheduling, where only those supplements over 200mg are subject to increased oversight, which the delegate argued was unsatisfactory.

The proposed implementation date of the new scheduling is 01 Feb 2027.

The interim decision is open to comment until 27 Jul 2025 - see **HERE** for more. **KB**

TGA statement on illegal vapes

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has moved to clarify what it says are erroneous media reports relating to the sale of illegal vapes on the black market.

Recent reports included an estimate from the TGA that amounted to 10 million vapes being sold via illegal means.

The organisation said this information was brought to its attention via a third-party document during a consultation process, which it released via a Freedom of Information request.

"The TGA does not hold information on the number of illicit vapes sold in Australia, and reports that suggest otherwise are inaccurate," the organisation confirmed.

Consultation being conducted by the TGA instead relates to funding provided by the Federal Government into understanding sales of lawful therapeutic vapes in Australia, which is now underway.

The TGA reaffirmed the current law in Australia, which says therapeutic vapes designed to help people quit smoking are only available from participating pharmacies where clinically appropriate.

"It is illegal for all other retailers, such as tobacconists, vape shops and convenience stores, to sell any kind of vape, regardless of whether it contains nicotine," it said.



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Dispensary Corner

PHARMACISTS in the Czech Republic are probably out of stock on painkillers, thanks to a fake dentist who decided to open a surgery in his home.

According to the *BBC*, police have charged a 22-year-old man and two siblings after they allegedly performed root canal on patients using instructions they read online.

The trio live in the Czech Republic town of Havlickuv Brod and spent the better part of two years treating people without any professional qualifications.

The fake dentist is understood to have extracted teeth, applied anaesthesia and performed complex root canal procedures, all derived from online guides.

While police didn't say whether any of their patients actually complained about the service received, the trio now face up to eight years in jail after being found guilty.

According to the president of the Czech dental chamber, Roman Smucler, around 10 cases of fake dentists are reported to him every year.

Falls prevention guidelines updated

THE Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has released new guidelines for falls prevention in older adults, highlighting the role of pharmacists in helping to prevent medication-related falls.

Revised and updated for the first time since 2009, the Falls Guidelines (2025) have been devised for three different settings: residential aged care services, hospitals and community care.

The guidelines provide clear recommendations and good practice points based on evidence from systematic reviews and expert opinion.

Health professionals are able to use this guidance to work with people at risk of harm from falls to reduce risk factors and tailor interventions for a person-centred approach.

Among the good practice points are regular medication reviews, with a particular focus on medicines that impact cognition, falls and osteoporosis.

When deprescribing is not an option, or when new medicines are introduced, older people need to be advised about ways to reduce their risk of falling.

Senior Research Scientist at

NeuRA's Falls, Balance and Injury Research Centre, Assoc Prof Jasmine Menant, was part of the team that worked on the five-year project in collaboration with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

"Falls have a big impact on individuals, as the consequences can be life-changing, from injury, to early admission into residential aged care or even mortality," Assoc Prof Menant said.

"They also have a big impact on our economy, with falls of Australians aged over 65 years old costing the health system more than \$2.8 billion annually", she added.

The Falls Guidelines (2025) combined research, community consultation and more to develop recommendations and best practice for a range of settings, Assoc Prof Menant explained.

"The guidelines build on our work at the Falls, Balance and Injury Research Centre, by translating the highest level of scientific evidence into effective fall prevention initiatives into evidence-based guideline care.

"They recommend a tailored approach with different interventions to different people,



according to whether they have fallen in the recent past and what additional individual risk factors they have."

Assoc Prof Menant said the guidelines continued to address the three settings where falls may occur, and looked at the importance of interventions, not just risk assessments.

"For all settings there is an emphasis on implementation of interventions rather than assessment of risk," Assoc Prof Menant said.

"For example, in residential aged care, there is stronger evidence to support the ongoing delivery of exercise for fall prevention, and in the community, highlighting different approaches to intervention for people with different levels of risk."

The Falls Guidelines (2025) are available [HERE](#). KB

Check out the latest in

Beauty & Wellness

Every Thursday in *Pharmacy Daily*



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