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Today's issue of PD

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

- TerryWhite Chemmart
- Nova Pharmaceuticals' MediChoice

Terry has HEART

TERRYWHITE Chemmart celebrated the outstanding contributions of its supplier partners at last week's HEART Awards gala event.

See the winners on **page five**.

The right choice

NOVA Pharmaceuticals' MediChoice products are the right choice for accessible, cost-effective treatments.

The range includes Epsom salts, eucalyptus spray, vapour rub, inhaler and analgesics.

See **page six** for more.

CMO urges vaccinators to improve uptake

IN A letter to health professionals, Chief Medical Officer Professor Anthony Lawler expressed concern about declining influenza vaccine rates, urging vaccinators to focus on improving uptake as the flu season approaches.

Last year only 26% of under-fives were vaccinated, compared to 30% in 2023, while in people aged 65 and older, uptake declined from as high as 70% in 2022 to 61%.

Professor Lawler noted that pregnant women face higher risks of hospitalisation, yet their vaccination rates remain suboptimal, a trend also noted with other vaccines (PD 13 Feb).

Among the priority target groups, Professor Lawler said First Nations people have the lowest reported vaccination rates, with uptake among First Nations children under five at 18% in 2024, down from 23% in 2023.

Given the heightened risks of respiratory disease during winter, Professor Lawler suggested



vaccinators consider co-administration of flu and COVID vaccines where appropriate, recommending they should also take steps to ensure patients are up to date with all vaccinations.

For pregnant women, influenza vaccines can be co-administered with the maternal RSV vaccine (between 28-36 weeks), pertussis vaccine (between 20 and 32 weeks) COVID vaccines and other vaccines indicated during pregnancy.

All vaccinations given must

be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

The 2025 National Immunisation Program (NIP) influenza vaccines will be available to order from Apr, subject to local supply arrangements, with vaccination recommended from mid-Apr onwards to ensure optimal protection over peak flu season (Jun to Sep).

Department of Health and Aged Care information about the 2025 flu vaccine is available **HERE**. KB

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AdPha welcomes IV fluid boost

HEALTH Minister Mark Butler has announced a \$20 million government investment in increased local production of IV fluids in a move designed to end Australia's reliance on the product from overseas.

Under the plan to expand Baxter Healthcare's production facility in Western Sydney - the only local manufacturer of IV fluid - manufacturing capacity is projected to expand by one third to 80 million units a year from 2027.

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has welcomed the announcement, with president Tom Simpson pointing out that IV fluids are used every day by a number of specialty practitioners embedded in care teams, in and around Australian hospitals.

"IV fluids are essential to acute pharmacy care to administer life-saving medicines, and are utilised every day by specialty pharmacists across compounding services, critical care, emergency medicine, haematology and oncology, and

infectious diseases, just to name a few," Simpson said.

"Our members working in dispensing and distribution have spent the last few years managing medicine shortages and in recent months, the IV fluid shortages for their hospital and health services, having to make tough decisions on how to conserve stock to maintain safe and quality care for all patients."

Simpson thanked AdPha members across the various specialty practice groups who had spoken up on the issue.

AdPha is the only pharmacy body represented on the National IV Fluid Response Group.

"This investment to shore up supply of essential IV fluids is an important step forward in the coordinated and interdisciplinary effort to mitigate medicines shortages, a top priority of AdPha's advocacy," Simpson said, adding that there is more to do ensure medicine shortages are managed well and patients kept informed. *KB*

Rostom levels up

NANCY Rostom is an award-winning pharmacist manager from Perth and founder of the 'Level Up Pharmacist' workbook, a resource helping people excel in their careers.

Beyond her managerial role at Wizard Pharmacy Mount Pleasant, Rostom is also an advisory board member of Hey Sister, which develops and markets plant-based women's health products.

In the latest episode of Your Pharmacy Career Podcast, hosted by Krysti-Lee Patterson, Rostom shares her journey into pharmacy, inspired by her father's dream for her to enter the healthcare industry.

Her passion for education, mentorship and innovation has shaped her career, from establishing a mentoring program for young pharmacists to writing for leading healthcare publications.

In the podcast, she discusses how she transitioned from student to leader and the importance of mentorship and its impact on the next generation of pharmacists.

She actively engages with the community through her Instagram platform, where she shares insights and fosters discussions on pharmacy practice, and in the podcast discusses the role of community engagement and personalised marketing in pharmacy success.

Listen to the podcast [HERE](#).

Second JE case in Vic

A **SECOND** human case of Japanese encephalitis (JE) has been confirmed in northern Victoria, with likely exposure in the Riverina region of NSW.

Eligible people should be vaccinated - more details [HERE](#).

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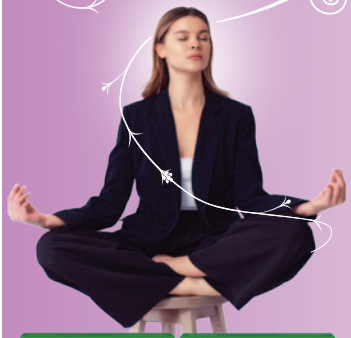
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Travel telehealth and pharmacies team up

A NEW telehealth travel medicine service has launched in NSW, teaming up with pharmacies across the state to improve access to high-quality pre-travel healthcare.

Glide Online Travel Clinic is working with pharmacies to provide immediate access to travel doctors for people anywhere in the state, helping people protect themselves as well as their communities at home from communicable diseases, such as measles.

Telehealth consultations with travel doctors enable travellers to obtain a comprehensive pre-travel medical assessment; electronic prescriptions for immunisations, anti-malarials and other medications; written travel-related medical advice delivered securely to their inbox; medical letters for customs officials to cover prescription medications; and recommendations for pharmacies in their local area.

They can then visit their pharmacy for administration of

travel vaccinations, medication pick-up, and access to other travel-related products, such as insect repellent, oral-rehydration salt tablets and other over-the-counter medications.

Glide is led by Dr James Knox, an Australian specialist in infectious diseases with a Diploma in Tropical Medicine, with Glide doctors living in and working from Queensland, NSW and Victoria.

With the recent announcement of pharmacist-delivered travel vaccinations in South Australia (PD 07 Feb), Glide Online Travel Clinic plans to provide services there in the near future.

The expansion of the service is then anticipated to continue in line with the roll-out of pharmacy-



delivered travel vaccinations around the country.

Jason Harvey of CP Peoples Chemist in Broken Hill, said: "People in the far west love to travel, but it can often be weeks before you are able to get in and see a GP to access the medications you might need.

"Access to fast and efficient telehealth is an easy way to help us visit the rest of the world." KB

Careers summit registrations open

THE Pharmacy Careers Summit 2025 (PCS25) is officially open for registrations, with this year's event promising to be bigger and better than ever.

The virtual summit takes place on 04 Jul and is designed to provide invaluable insights, networking opportunities and career-defining discussions for qualified pharmacists and intern pharmacists alike.

Highlights of PCS25 include: insights from Australia's top pharmacy leaders about the future of the industry; express presentations about career opportunities across major banner groups; a virtual trade exhibition; and over 40 speakers, including business leaders, motivational speakers and pharmacy experts.

Registration is free, and can earn attendees up to 3.5 CPD hours - see more [HERE](#).

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Dive into our latest podcast episode featuring **Nancy Rostom**, an award-winning pharmacist based in Perth, titled "Mentorship, Community Engagement & Innovation in Pharmacy".

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Dispensary Corner

AND so it begins...

In the midst of a measles outbreak in Texas, which has hospitalised 20 people and killed a child, sparking new US health secretary Robert F Kennedy is calling on people to resist infection by taking vitamins rather than getting vaccinated.

In an opinion piece for *Fox News*, RFK argued that vaccination was a "personal choice", and said vitamin A could "dramatically reduce measles mortality".

As is sometimes the case with crackpot theories, there is a grain of truth in that, with studies having shown that vitamin A could be an effective supportive therapy for children already infected with measles.

However, those studies were mostly conducted in low- and middle-income countries where measles deaths and malnutrition are more common.

"Good nutrition remains a best defence against most chronic and infectious illnesses," he continued, which is somewhat true - at least for chronic diseases.

On firmer nutritional ground, finally, he added that "vitamins A, C and D, and foods rich in vitamins B12, C and E should be part of a balanced diet".

Many expected the worst from this avowed vaccine-sceptic, so while the views are no surprise, they still raised the ire of many.

The brickbat award goes to senator Elizabeth Warren: "Your irresponsible and reckless efforts to undermine the nation's vaccine policy threaten to fan the flames of disaster."

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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

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Stockist contact: 1300 555 597

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



Hartley's Gripe Water



Hartley's Gripe Water is a natural blend of herbal ingredients of dill seed oil, peppermint oil, chamomile and coriander oil. These herbs have been used safely in commercial infant preparations for many years.

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

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RRP: \$10.51 - 200ml bottle

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



TerryWhite Chemmart

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TerryWhite Chemmart is proud to announce the winners of our 2024 HEART Awards



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