

4 ways to help build strong bones

Available from Symbion, Sigma, API & CH2

Petrus PHARMACEUTICALS

Always read the label and follow the directions for use.

Today's issue of PD

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

- PharmaCare
- Willach

Better absorption

FEFOL iron & folic acid delayed release capsules with iron sulphate are first choice for treating iron deficiency.

They offer four times better absorption than ferric iron, while the delayed-release technology helps reduce constipation - see **page four**.

Rethink dispensary

WILLACH Consis.C provides the latest in robotic automation for a more efficient dispensary set-up, freeing up space and time within your pharmacy - see **p5**.

Federal Budget delivers billions for health

WHILE short on surprises, the 2025-26 Budget's pharmacy and medicines spending pledges have been broadly welcomed.

There is funding over six years to improve access to medicines and trial an expansion to the range of services that can be delivered by community pharmacies.

This includes \$539.4 million over five years to establish the First Pharmaceutical Wholesalers Agreement to ensure medicines remain accessible across all parts of Australia, and \$10 million in 2027-28 to review wholesaling arrangements to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

There is also \$109.1 million pledged over four years to support two pharmacy trials that aim to give women greater access to contraceptives and uncomplicated urinary tract infections, included in the \$573 million investment in women's health initiatives announced in Feb (**PD** 10 Feb).

The \$25 prescription co-payment,

set to cost \$784.6 million over four years, was announced last week.

The Government has also pledged \$13.2 million over four years for the Return Unwanted Medicines program and \$5.7 million in 2025-26 to extend funding to ensure sustainability of Australia's electronic prescribing infrastructure.

It has committed \$188 million for tackling illicit tobacco and associated nicotine products, and \$1.5 million in 2025-26 to extend funding for the National Best Practice Support Service for Nicotine and Smoking Cessation (Quit Centre) to provide health professionals with information on smoking and vaping cessation.

The PSA has welcomed the Federal Government's \$1 million investment in the further development of the Code of Ethics for Pharmacists, reflecting evolving practice and supporting pharmacists as new ethical paradigms arise.

PSA National President Associate Professor Fei Sim said the work will "ensure pharmacists are supported to practise to their full scope".

The Government will provide \$1.8 billion over five years from 2024-25 for new and amended listings on the PBS, flagging drugs for cancers, arthritis and women's health, as well as funding for the Take Home Naloxone program.

While welcoming the \$8.5 billion investment to strengthen Medicare, National Rural Health Association Chief Executive Susi Tegen pointed out it mostly benefits city-based and corporate practices.

"We call on the government to commit to ongoing Medicare reform, flexibility in funding and policy for thin and failing markets," Tegen said, adding that it will ensure "all rural healthcare providers including general practice, pharmacy and allied health services are able to sustain their multidisciplinary practices to meet population health needs". *KB*

There's now a smarter way.

Medview

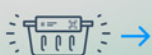
Digital Basket Technology



Patient orders script with pharmacy



Digital basket receives



Patient collects with SMS QR code



Think outside the basket.

Placebo power

WOMEN affected by premenstrual syndrome (PMS) appear to experience less intense and debilitating symptoms after taking placebo pills - even when told they do not contain any active medication - a study has found.

PMS can cause symptoms such as irritability, depressed mood and mood swings, as well as breast tenderness, bloating and joint pain.

Prescribed treatments to help with PMS, such as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and hormonal agents like oral contraceptives and danazol, are often associated with side effects.

Open-label placebos (OLPs) - placebos that are provided with full transparency - have been shown to help with various complaints, including irritable bowel syndrome, chronic low back pain and menopausal hot flashes, so researchers were keen to see if they could help with PMS.

They carried out a trial involving 150 women aged 18-45 who had PMS or premenstrual dysphoric disorder and treated them for six weeks.

They were divided into three groups, and received their usual treatment; a placebo; or a placebo, along with information about how placebos could potentially ease symptoms (the OLP group). Those in the OLP group experienced a greater reduction in intensity of symptoms and greater reduction in interference in their lives than the other groups, and had no side effects.

The women in the placebo group fared next best, while those in the 'usual treatment' group fared worst.

"OLP treatment could serve as an acceptable, efficacious, and safe intervention for PMS," the authors concluded.

Read the study [HERE](#).

Programs consultation

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) will soon host a roundtable consultation to discuss a range of pharmacy programs that sit outside the Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA).

The new pharmacy programs agreement will cover a range of pharmacy programs that no longer sit within the 8CPA.

This includes medication management programs (including Home Medicines Reviews and Residential Medication Management Reviews), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific programs, and rural support programs that encompass pharmacists in a range of practice areas.

The new agreement will see the PSA and the Commonwealth work together, alongside other pharmacy stakeholders, to strengthen programs that pharmacists deliver across the health system.

Content of the new agreement will be informed by outcomes from the consultation roundtable, as well as the results of an independent cost-effectiveness review by Deloitte of existing pharmacy programs.

The consultation roundtable will be chaired by PSA Consultant Pharmacist Advisor Debbie Rigby, who said consultation with stakeholders, including pharmacy representative bodies, primary care stakeholders, consumers and health groups, will contribute to programs that better support pharmacists to deliver safe, accessible, timely care to Australians.

"As the peak national body for pharmacists across all areas of practice, PSA is leading a roundtable with key pharmacy and health stakeholders, setting the agenda for programs that sit outside of the Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement," Rigby said.

"By bringing together key stakeholders, we get a comprehensive, profession-wide



view of both the challenges and opportunities ahead.

"Harnessing the insights gathered through this consultation, PSA is identifying challenges in current services, and potential improvements to existing programs, to enable sustainability and better outcomes from these programs," she concluded.

PSA National President Associate Professor Fei Sim reaffirmed PSA's commitment to a collaborative approach that seeks input from across the sector.

"Our focus is on ensuring that programs delivered by pharmacists are fit for purpose and evolving to meet the growing health needs of Australians," A/Prof Sim said.

Consultation on individual pharmacy programs is currently open on PSA's website.

Members and the broader pharmacy profession are encouraged to provide their insights, case studies on challenges or barriers limiting patient access, and ideas on how to improve the quality and accessibility of services.

More info is available [HERE](#). **KB**

Save on private health premiums

WITH private health insurance premiums set to rise by an average of 3.73% from 01 Apr, Members Health Fund Alliance is encouraging pharmacists to take measures to minimise the impact of the increase on the family budget.

The first step is to see if you are with a Members Health fund, which operate as mutuals and are not-for-profit or are member-owned.

They keep health premiums lower than the large for-profit insurers and the annual increase tends to be lower.

As allied health professionals, pharmacists have access to Members Health funds that serve the healthcare worker community and are worth looking into.

A second tip is to review your existing health insurance policy to make sure you have the appropriate level of cover for your needs.

Thirdly, always talk directly with a health insurance fund before making a health insurance purchase.

Commercial online comparator websites can be a useful resource when shopping around, but if you read the fine print you will see they do not compare all insurers, or display all policies offered by insurers they do cover.

There is more info on the Members Health website [HERE](#).



Dispensary Corner

A FLORIDA man in his 70s was hospitalised after contracting an illness caused by pig-derived bacteria called *Brucella suis*.

According to a report in the journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, the man had a history of heart failure, which necessitated an automated implantable cardiac defibrillator device to keep his heartbeat steady.

Starting in early 2019, he developed chest issues that led to multiple hospital stays.

His doctors at the time determined that some sort of infection had taken root in his device, but initial tests failed to find any suspects.

After several antibiotic treatments, he seemed fine for a few months, but returned to hospital with left chest discomfort and fever.

The doctors finally decided to remove his implant, which was when they identified the cause of infection.

B. suis is one of several bacteria that cause the zoonotic disease brucellosis, and the man recalled that he was gifted feral pig meat on several occasions in 2017 by a local hunter.

He touched the meat with bare hands before cooking and eating it, and while other possibilities exist, the doctors believed this was the source of his exposure to *B. suis*.

He was given the standard antibiotic treatment for brucellosis, and was later given a new defibrillator implant.

He is now fully recovered - and presumably a little more aware of good food-handling hygiene.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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

Revive Tears - PBS-listed

Revive Tears lubricant eye drops provide long lasting and soothing relief against burning, irritation and discomfort due to dry eye.

The product also moisturises, comforts and refreshes dry, tired and strained eyes.

Revive Tears helps lubricate, hydrate and protect dry eyes.

Suitable for use with contact lenses.

Contains hypromellose 3mg/g.

Suppliers: Available from Symbion, Sigma & API.

RRP: \$4.32 (available in 10ml packs).

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



The sensitive skin exfoliators are here: Introducing Cetaphil's Gentle Exfoliating SA Range

Cetaphil's new Gentle Exfoliating SA cleanser and lotion for face and body is uniquely formulated with a triple-acid blend of salicylic, mandelic, and gluconolactone acid, that can progressively achieve the full benefits of exfoliation for sensitive skin (1,2).

Suitable for daily use, the products are clinically proven to smooth and soften skin after just one use (1) and provide more even-looking skin in just two days (2). Dermatologist-recommended, hypoallergenic, and fragrance-free, they are available now at your pharmacy wholesaler.

RRP: Cetaphil SA exfoliating cleanser 236ml \$22.99

RRP: Cetaphil SA exfoliating lotion 236ml \$22.99

Website: www.cetaphil.com.au/search?cgid=gentle-exfoliating-sa

References:

1 In Use test - Galderma data on file RD.53.SPR.207026, In Use test - Galderma data on file RD.53.SPR.207020
2 In Use test - Galderma data on file RD.53.SPR.207020 & RD.53.SPR.207026



FEFOL®

The First Choice In Iron



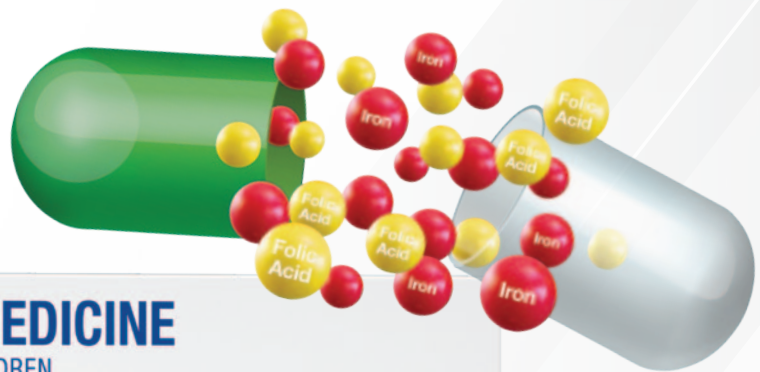
**First choice
treatment for
iron deficiency**



**4x better
absorption due
to iron sulfate***



**Delayed release
technology for
low constipation**



PHARMACY MEDICINE
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

FEFOL®

IRON & FOLIC ACID

DELAYED RELEASE CAPSULES

FERROUS SULFATE 270mg equiv. to 87.4mg of elemental iron
FOLIC ACID 300 micrograms

- ✓ For the prevention and treatment of iron and folate deficiency
- ✓ Supplies iron to the body which may help in the production of energy
- ✓ Can help relieve fatigue associated with iron deficiency

AUST R 12987

60 MODIFIED RELEASE CAPSULES

Always read the label and follow the directions for use. For use when iron or folate deficiency has been diagnosed by your doctor and a therapeutic iron or folic acid supplement is recommended. *Compared to ferric iron. Palacios S. The Scientific World Journal. 2012: 846824.

Save Time. Save Money.



Time to rethink your dispensary set-up?

The latest in pharmacy robotic automation from Willach Pharmacy Solutions

The CONSYS C uses state-of-the-art technology in all areas of operations, ordering and reporting software to the mechanical and electronic components and integration with your dispense software.

The sophisticated design maximises storage capacity, with autoloading capability saving you time. Equipped with inbuilt sensors and cameras, it delivers comprehensive diagnostic support. Plus, with Australian service technicians available 365 days per year you can enjoy peace of mind.

[find out more](#)



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