

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature, plus a full page from **Dispense Assist**.

Dispensary help

DISPENSE Assist is a low-cost staffing solution with dispensary technicians available 24/7, at rates from as low as \$7.42 per hour, for services that include compounding, DAAs and any other required tasks - see **page five** for details.

New measles cases in Victoria

TWO new measles cases have been reported in Victoria, one of which was locally acquired and has no known links to recent cases of measles.

The other case was identified in a returned traveller who visited Vietnam.

The Department of Health has advised there is currently an increased risk of measles in greater Melbourne, Mitchell Shire and Macedon Ranges Shire, as well as the ongoing risk of measles importation in Victoria in travellers returning from overseas, with outbreaks occurring in a growing number of countries.

Read the full alert, including a list of exposure sites, **HERE**.

Joint call for funding GP-based pharmacists

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) and have joined forces to call on major parties to fund general practice-based pharmacists to work with specialist GPs to support high-quality prescribing and quality use of medicines.

The measure could deliver around \$545 million in net savings to the health system over four years through fewer hospital admissions and reduced medicine use.

Non-dispensing pharmacists in general practice answer queries, monitor prescribing, conduct medicine reviews, help patients understand their medicines, and ensure safe and effective use of medicines.

PSA National President Associate Professor Fei Sim said practice-based pharmacists would improve patients' access to high-quality care.

"Australia is facing an avalanche of chronic health conditions, requiring more significant, advanced, and complex care from all healthcare professionals," she said.

"We must support our healthcare system to meet this demand by investing in multidisciplinary care now, supporting GPs to grow their teams and foster greater pharmacist-GP collaboration to achieve true patient-centred care," A/Prof Sim said.

She pointed out that the funding would directly benefit the health system, reduce costs for patients, "and most importantly, improve prescribing safety and quality care".

RACGP President Dr Michael Wright said boosting funding to

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add pharmacists and other health professionals to join general practice teams would deliver immediate and long-term benefits.

"People with chronic illness get the best care when their specialist GP works with pharmacists and other health professionals in multidisciplinary care teams," Dr Wright stated.

"Pharmacists, GPs and non-GP specialists, nurses, and other allied health professionals like dietitians and psychologists all apply different skills to benefit our patients.

"Most practices provide multidisciplinary care, and most GPs want to grow their teams to better serve our patients."

Dr Wright said adding pharmacists to practice teams will improve patient education and safety, particularly for older patients, who too often are admitted to hospital due to adverse drug events, and identify opportunities to deprescribe when the medicine is no longer necessary.

Trials of general practice-based



pharmacists have reported excellent feedback from both patients and GPs.

"For patients, funding will mean faster and easier access to care from an allied health professional who's working closely with their specialist GP," Dr Wright said. *KB*

Glucojel Bears winner announced

GLUCOJEL Glucofest (**PD** 23 Apr) is now over, with Helen Shuffell of Harcourt, Victoria, drawn as the winner of a year's supply of Glucojel Bears.

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teva

First new PBS listing for ALS drug in 20 yrs

RADICAVA IV infusion (edaravone, Teva Pharma) is now listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for eligible adults with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), representing the first new PBS-listed molecule for the treatment of ALS in over 20 years.

Teva noted that pharmacists will play a key role in counselling patients and caregivers about Radicava's administration schedule, monitoring for potential side effects, and supporting adherence to treatment, particularly as part of a multidisciplinary approach to ALS care.

Radicava is indicated in Australia for adults with a diagnosis of ALS, the most common type of motor neurone disease, who are independent in activities of daily living with normal respiratory function and where treatment is initiated within two years of disease onset.

ALS symptoms can progress

rapidly, decreasing function and quality of life, with a median survival time of around 3.5 years from the onset of symptoms.

Early treatment with the drug can help slow disease progression and reduce decline in quality of life.

A six-month clinical trial in eligible people with ALS showed a 33% reduction in functional decline versus placebo and a 34% reduction in decline in quality of life versus placebo.

The main adverse events include contusion, gait disturbance, headache, eczema and dermatitis contact.

"ALS is a rapidly progressing disease, placing a substantial physical, emotional, and financial burden on individuals and their families," said Professor Matthew Kiernan, CEO and Institute Director at Neuroscience Research Australia.

"Early symptoms can be subtle and ALS is difficult to diagnose," Professor Kiernan explained.

"If healthcare professionals



suspect ALS or MND, it is important to refer to a neurologist who can diagnose MND to meet the individual's needs as early as possible, including the commencement of protective treatment, to keep patients in the milder form of the disease for longer periods," he concluded.

Radicava is listed on the PBS as a Section 100 item. KB

Govt funding for lung cancer med

AUSTRALIANS with an aggressive form of lung cancer most common in non-smokers will now have affordable access to the first medicine to target the underlying cause of their disease.

Johnson & Johnson's bispecific antibody IV infusion Rybrent (amivantamab) is now available through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for people with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer caused by changes (Exon-20 insertion alterations) in the epidermal growth factor receptor gene.

Up to now, these patients, who tend to be younger than other lung cancer patients, paid around \$7,400 per script and had limited options available via the PBS, and none for their cancer specifically.

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New Bioderma brand identity aims to highlight skin health

A NEW visual identity designed to reflect Bioderma's 45-year legacy of dermatological innovation has been launched by the French skincare brand.

The new branding is headlined by a refreshed corporate logo and streamlined packaging that reflects the company's mission to respect and strengthen the skin's natural health with innovative skincare products.

"This exciting new brand platform is about recognising Bioderma's commitment to revealing the intelligence of the skin, and is designed to reinforce our unique expertise in science and dermatology," said Bioderma Head of Marketing, Karen Dooley.



Central to the new corporate image is a renewed commitment to nurturing ecobiology and understanding the key synergies and interactions between skin health and health of the planet.

Bioderma's products are formulated and manufactured in France, with a single site in the

southern city of Aix-En-Provence responsible for all research and development activities.

The range is available in Australia through all leading pharmacy chains and speciality skincare retailers, with new packaging beginning to roll out from later this year.

Keep the mozzies off



CHEMIST Warehouse outlets around Australia now stock Australian wellness brand Natpat and its range of non-medicated patches and stickers.

The company is perhaps best known for its innovative selection of BuzzPatch mosquito repellent stickers which help to keep the annoying insects away.

The patches work by providing a gentle and effective way of repelling mosquitos using a blend of soothing essential oil-infused aroma stickers.

Since its launch in 2020, the brand has taken over one million orders on its website and with the new Chemist Warehouse supply partnership, is set to continue to grow even faster.

Chemist Warehouse now stocks the following products, with packs of 28 stickers available for \$25.99 - BuzzPatch Kids Mosquito Repellent; SleepyPatch Bedtime Sleep Promoting; Stuffypatch Breathe Easy; Seasonal Sensitivity; Kids ZenPatch; Kids Focus; SunnyPatch UV Sensing and MagicPatch Itch Relief.

Shimmery pout

REVOLUTION Pout Bomb lip gloss now has added shimmer.

With a new and improved formula, packaging and sweet vanilla scent, Revolution's Pout Bomb Shimmer Gloss (\$12) is designed to give lips a juicy, non-sticky shimmering finish.

It also contains nourishing ingredients, including hyaluronic acid, vitamin E and jojoba oil.

Available in five new shimmering shades from Priceline.



Benefits of Manuka honey in an oral spray



ULTRA Nature Propolis and Manuka Honey oral spray (RRP \$13.99) is a natural antibacterial product and antioxidant that may assist in the treatment of minor

mouth and throat infections.

Propolis contains over 300 natural compounds with antioxidant health benefits, while Manuka honey is the driving force behind the antibacterial effect of the spray.

It also contains peppermint oil, whose main chemical compounds are menthol and menthone which are widely used as remedies for a variety of conditions.

The chamomile extracts in the spray are often used to treat anxiety and sleep issues, while ivy leaf extract can assist in respiratory conditions such as bronchial swelling, cough and congestion.

Ultra Nature Propolis and Manuka Honey oral spray is made in Australia and is available at Priceline and selected pharmacies.

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Dispensary Corner

RESEARCH suggests that healthcare workers who wash their scrubs and uniforms at home may be unknowingly contributing to the spread of antibiotic-resistant infections.

Hospital-acquired infections are a major public health concern, in part because they frequently involve antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

UK researchers tested six models of home washing machines to see if they successfully decontaminated healthcare worker uniforms.

Half of the machines did not disinfect the clothing during a rapid cycle, while one third failed to clean sufficiently during the standard cycle.

The team also sampled biofilms - also known as 'gunge' - from inside 12 washing machines, with DNA sequencing revealing the presence of potentially pathogenic bacteria and antibiotic resistance genes.

Investigations also showed that bacteria can develop resistance to domestic detergent, which also increased their resistance to certain antibiotics.

The findings suggest that many home washing machines are not suitable for decontaminating health worker uniforms, and may be contributing to the spread of hospital-acquired infections and antibiotic resistance.

"If we're serious about transmission of infectious disease via textiles and tackling antimicrobial resistance, we must rethink how we launder what our healthcare workers wear," the authors concluded.

AMR climate change rise

CLIMATE change and failure to meet sustainable development strategies could contribute to an increase in the global burden of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by 2050, according to an international study.

The authors project that AMR could increase by up to 2.4% globally by 2050, representing a rise from 1.14 million deaths globally, in 2021 to over two million deaths by 2050.

Deaths disproportionately affect low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), and authors have called for urgent action to address broader socioeconomic and environmental factors beyond simply reducing antibiotic use to mitigate the global burden of AMR.

Sustainable development efforts, such as lowering out-of-pocket health expenses, expanding immunisation coverage, increasing health investments and ensuring universal access to water, sanitary and hygiene services, could reduce the future prevalence of AMR, the authors pointed out.

"Findings show that AMR trajectories will diverge sharply depending on national development strategies, with LMICs facing especially steep challenges under climate change pressures," said co-author Professor Chaojie Liu of La Trobe University.

"Critically, the research underscores that focusing solely on antibiotic overuse is insufficient," he said.

Read the paper [HERE](#).

New gender-affirming CPD

A **NEW** Continuing Professional Development (CPD) module focused on inclusive and affirming healthcare for transgender, gender-diverse and non-binary patients is now available to pharmacists across Australia.

'Gender-Affirming Care in Pharmacy' was developed by Queer Pharmacists of Australia (QPOA) in collaboration with Meitheal Services, and the module has now been released through the CPD platform Innrx.

QPOA leads national advocacy and education initiatives that support LGBTQIA+ inclusion, health equity and visibility across the pharmacy profession.

The self-paced module is designed as an accessible entry point for pharmacists seeking to build confidence in gender-affirming care.

It explores the pharmacist's role in delivering culturally safe and inclusive services, and equips learners with practical communication strategies, including the use of affirming language and



respectful terminology.

The module also offers evidence-informed guidance for supporting gender-diverse patients in pharmacy settings, enriched by real-world case examples and lived experience.

QPOA Founder Deni Salmon said: "This module was created by pharmacists, for pharmacists."

"It's about providing the foundation for affirming care and challenging the barriers that have too often left trans and gender-diverse patients feeling invisible or misunderstood in pharmacy."

The course is available through Innrx.co and is free to members of the platform - more details [HERE](#).

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