



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

TWO EXCLUSIVE WEBINARS – ONE UNMISSABLE EVENT!

Be part of an exciting double feature with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia on **Wednesday, 28 May**. These back-to-back webinars are tailored to support every stage of your pharmacy career:

Business Essentials
For pharmacy owners



RX Futures

For pharmacy students, interns,
and early career pharmacists



Rx Futures

First Nations Health – A Shared Responsibility

Join us for a powerful yarn on First Nations health, cultural safety & pharmacy's role in health equity.



Kelly Tanner
Indigenous Engagement Manager
The Pharmacy Guild of Australia



Lachlan Munns
President,
University of Queensland
First Nations Students Association



Samantha Kourtis
Pharmacist & Managing Partner,
Capital Chemist Charnwood



Shi-Anne-Wallace
NAPSA Indigenous Chair



Wednesday, 28 May



6:00pm to 7:00pm AEDT



Join on Zoom

Register now

Business Essentials

Is Your Pharmacy EOFY Ready?

Join us for a webinar featuring tax and banking experts from RSM Australia and Commonwealth Bank.



Emma Brown
Director (Business Advisory Division),
RSM Australia



Debora Singgih
National Director
(Policy & Performance),
CommBank Health



Lachlan Scadden-McHugh
Director Healthcare (National),
Commonwealth Bank



Wednesday, 28 May



7:15pm to 8:15pm AEDT



Join on Zoom

Register now

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of industry news, plus a front cover wrap from the **Pharmacy Guild of Australia**, and a full page from **Chemsave**.

Guild webinars

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is running two webinars on Wed 28 May. The first looks at First Nations health, and the second covers business essentials for EOFY. See the **cover page** for more.

Do the maths

ALIGNING with Chemsave delivers bottom-line benefits for your pharmacy. If you are looking to buy a pharmacy, consider joining Chemsave's Wealth 100 Club - membership is free. Learn more on **page three**.

Banks save Healthscope

TROUBLED private hospital company Healthscope has been handed a lifeline by the Commonwealth Bank and Westpac to the tune of \$100 million to keep it running as it looks for a new owner.

The company, which owns 37 hospitals, is \$1.6 billion in debt and announced yesterday it has entered administration, raising concerns about outcomes for patients, its 19,000 staff and the broader health system.

"While Healthscope have announced they will remain operating as normal with no change to patient care or staffing, this will still be difficult for the hospital's employees, and their patients," acknowledged Health Minister Mark Butler.

However, the government has ruled out a taxpayer bailout of the company, and has also indicated it would prefer the assets were not held by international private equity firms.

The Australian Medical

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Association (AMA) has welcomed commitments that the operation of Healthscope's hospitals will continue as normal and that additional funding has been provided by the banks to support their operation.

"We also welcome the receiver's stated intention to transition all hospitals to new ownership, with no plans for hospital closures or redundancies," said AMA President Dr Danielle McMillan.

"The constant speculation in the media about the future of Healthscope has fuelled significant uncertainty, but the details of [the] announcement show a clear commitment to the continued operations of the Healthscope hospitals, and patients can continue to schedule their procedures and other treatments with confidence.

"This is good news for patients, as well as the doctors, health professionals and staff working in Healthscope hospitals." KB

NSW vaccinator update webinar

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is hosting a members webinar at 6:30pm on 02 Jun to discuss changes to NSW Pharmacist Vaccination Standards - sign up **HERE**.

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Continued Dispensing for NSW floods

FROM 23 May to 30 Jun 2025, a temporary PBS Continued Dispensing Emergency Measure has been put in place to support people affected by the flooding disaster in NSW, allowing them to access essential medicines.

It covers most medicines on the General Schedule of the PBS - learn more **HERE**.



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Adrian Staltari
TerryWhite Chemmart Playford



Dispensary Corner

A US dermatologist has revealed the most overlooked body part that you must clean every day to avoid the risk of serious health issues.

According to Dr Roger Kapoor, neglecting to wash behind your ears, an area chock full of dirt, oil and dead skin, can lead to eczema, infections and even life-threatening sepsis.

Furthermore, bacteria lurking in the crease can migrate to open wounds, such as ear piercings or scratches inside the ear, and trigger infections.

In severe cases, these infections may spread to other parts of the body and enter the bloodstream, leading to sepsis.

As for eczema, the build up of oil, dirt and sweat can create a moist environment for bacteria and fungus to thrive, which can worsen the condition, as well as cause general skin irritation.

And if all that isn't enough, you might also smell bad too.

He advised using a gentle soap and scrubbing behind the ears with fingers to clean the area thoroughly on a daily basis.

Aged care MACs on track

A NATIONAL audit of how medication use is governed in residential aged care has revealed a wide variation in the structure and function of Medication Advisory Committees (MACs) across the country.

A MAC is a multidisciplinary committee that provides overarching governance of medication management within residential care homes, and is central to promoting medication safety, particularly around managing the issue of polypharmacy (the use of nine or more medications simultaneously).

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing recommends that all residential care homes have access to a MAC to support safe use of medications and, ultimately, mitigate risks associated with inappropriate prescribing.

The national audit examined how MACs function across their four recommended operational domains: policy development, risk management, education and quality improvement.

It was led by researchers from the Centre for Medicine Use and Safety (CMUS), within the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The audit involved 120 MACs

overseeing 642 residential care homes - almost a quarter of the total number in Australia.

The findings show that MACs are actively involved in policy and risk oversight - with 59% of MACs performing all recommended policy functions and 53% performing all recommended risk oversight functions, with further opportunities for capacity building and long-term improvement.

Overall, 41% fulfilled all educational roles, and 28% were fully engaged in quality improvement initiatives.

"This audit highlights both the strengths and the areas needing targeted support in how we manage and govern medication safety in aged care," said CMUS research fellow and lead author, Dr Amanda Cross.

"MACs have the potential to lead transformational change in this sector - if adequately supported and resourced."

With the new strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards due to commence on 01 Jul 2025, Dr Cross said MACs are well positioned to support implementation and monitoring of Quality Standard 5 to ensure delivery of safe and quality clinical care. KB

Guild welcomes GP expanded scope

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has welcomed news that GPs in NSW will be able to do more to support patients with ADHD (PD 27 May).

"Expanding the services offered by GPs, once they have undertaken additional training, will lead to better health outcomes and more effective services," said Guild National President, Professor Trent Twomey.

"We have seen how successful this approach has been in community pharmacy and it's pleasing to see other healthcare providers being able to expand the range of services offered."

"A truly patient-directed health system relies on all practitioners - including GPs, pharmacists and nurses being empowered."

"The NSW Government clearly believes in the potential of all health practitioners."

Twomey noted this is good news for patients, but added the TGA needs to take action to tackle the ADHD medication shortage "which has been ongoing for too long".



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ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing
Sean Harrigan
advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

GENERAL MANAGER & PUBLISHER
Matthew Vince

ACCOUNTS

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

info@pharmacydaily.com.au



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Do The Math(s)!

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VIC, SA, WA, TAS & NT

Michael Story
0425 820 160
michaelstory@chemsave.com.au



NSW, QLD & ACT

Simon Metcalfe
0499 208 182
simonmetcalfe@chemsave.com.au