

Today's issue of PD

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

Retinoid action

DIFFERIN Acne Treatment contains the potent retinoid **Adapalene** to treat and prevent acne and restore the skin's natural texture and tone.

Available over the counter - learn more on **page four**.

Alcohol-related cancer tool

THE NSW Government has launched an Australian-first digital tool to help people calculate their lifetime risk of alcohol-related malignancies, including bowel, liver, mouth, throat, neck and breast cancers.

Aimed primarily at adults over 40, the tool allows users to enter their age, gender and weekly alcohol use to show how drinking alcohol at various levels impacts their long-term cancer risk.

The tool is available **HERE**.

Diabetes progress celebrated

TODAY marks World Diabetes Day, where people living with all types of diabetes, healthcare professionals and advocates unite to raise awareness about the disease.

More than 1.3 million Australians are living with type 2 diabetes, with an estimated 500,000 undiagnosed.

Justine Cain, CEO of Diabetes Australia, said this year, the organisation is celebrating progress, achievements and impact.

"At Diabetes Australia, we believe living with diabetes is about more than numbers, it's about people and possibility," she said.

She highlighted the success of the group's free national membership program **Diabetes YOUnited**, launched one year ago, saying it "makes a real difference" in helping people feel confident about managing the condition.

Other achievements over the last year were a \$40 million investment in research (**PD** 06 Dec 2024), and the new **1800PREVENT** (type 2 diabetes) service (**PD** 08 Sep).

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has marked the day by taking the opportunity to remind the public that pharmacists play a key role in helping detect and manage type 2 diabetes, thereby achieving



better outcomes.

"Early detection and regular monitoring are key to preventing complications from type 2 diabetes," said Queensland Branch President Chris Owen.

"Community pharmacists can provide practical advice, help identify warning signs, and guide patients on steps to maintain their health," he said.

Owen also pointed out that many pharmacies participate in the National Diabetes Service Scheme (NDSS), helping patients understand and manage their condition, including providing subsidised diabetes care products.

"These services not only support patients in managing their health but also complement the care provided by GPs and other healthcare providers," Owen concluded. **KB**

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New PBS drug for multiple myeloma

THE Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing, Mark Butler, has announced the listing of Johnson & Johnson's **Darzalex** (daratumumab) on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) as an initial treatment for multiple myeloma.

Darzalex is a first-of-its-kind targeted immunotherapy that works by attaching to a signalling molecule on the surface of a multiple myeloma cell, triggering the patient's immune system to attack.

The drug can be prescribed for people newly diagnosed with multiple myeloma who are not eligible for stem cell transplantation, and will be used in combination with lenalidomide and dexamethasone.

With more than 2,600 new diagnoses each year, Australia has one of the highest multiple myeloma incidence and death rates in the world.

Clinicians have welcomed the subsidy, which would otherwise cost \$150,000 for the first year and \$84,000 annually thereafter.

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“Not your typical pharmacist”

DIVYA Lal was drawn to pharmacy for its unique blend of healthcare and entrepreneurship - a perspective shaped by her GP grandfather and a business-minded family environment.

In the latest episode of *Your Pharmacy Career Podcast*, Lal chats with host Krysti-Lee Patterson about her early days at Chemist Warehouse, where despite it not being her “ideal” internship, she thrived as she gained foundational business and clinical skills.

This led to a career helping to launch new pharmacies, a detour into property development, then a return to pharmacy leadership.

Along the way, she developed hands-on skills not normally acquired in the dispensary, such as waterproofing and heavy machinery operation, which enriched her leadership and broadened her professional confidence.

Lal exemplifies how stepping outside your comfort zone can lead to unexpected growth, and shows that success depends more on mindset than placement.

Describing herself as “not your typical pharmacist”, Lal reflected on leadership, mentoring the next generation of pharmacists, and why building relationships is at the heart of every successful career.

Now with Priceline’s Rx Management group, Lal continues to mentor the next generation of pharmacists and support community pharmacies in evolving sustainably during an era of major reform and opportunity.

Patterson noted that Lal’s journey underscores a key theme: pharmacy careers do not have to follow a linear path, and some of the most meaningful opportunities come from places you least expect.

Listen to the podcast [HERE](#).

Guild goes behind the scenes



THE National Pharmaceutical Services Association (NPSA) recently invited Branch Committee members and senior representatives from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Queensland, to a medicine distribution centre, enabling them to see the operations of the medicine supply chain firsthand.

The behind-the-scenes tour was hosted by NPSA at API’s Berrinba facility in Brisbane, one of the NPSA network’s newest member distribution centres which is equipped with world-class infrastructure and operating systems.

Queensland Branch President Chris Owen was joined by nine other Guild representatives at the 40,000sqm site which opened earlier this year and employs 134 people (*PD* 03 Apr).

NPSA also highlighted the latest innovations in bringing medicines to Australian patients, including cold chain management and secure handling of scheduled medicines.

NPSA Chair Richard Vincent said, “We are very proud to support Australia’s 5,900 pharmacies with safe and efficient distribution of PBS medicines generally within 24 hours of ordering them.

“This means our community pharmacists can dispense the treatments their patients need when they need them.

“Our partnership with pharmacy has never been more important as community pharmacy expands its role in prescribing, immunising and providing frontline healthcare.

“We greatly valued the opportunity to showcase the work that NPSA members are doing to manage the full range of PBS medicines and all other allied health products that support a patient’s care.”

Owen thanked NPSA for the opportunity to see its medicines distribution work firsthand.

“As pharmacists continue to advance their scope and deliver more frontline health services, the reliability and efficiency of medicine distribution is even more critical,” he said.

“This visit has highlighted not only the scale and capability of the systems that support our profession, but also the innovation driving continuous improvement in medicine access.” *KB*

Ego head named CEO of the year

DR JANE Oppenheim (pictured), Chief Executive Officer at Ego Pharmaceuticals, was named the CEO of the Year at *The CEO Magazine* 15th annual Executive of the Year Awards held on Wed.

Dr Oppenheim first secured the Manufacturing Executive of the Year award, before taking out the overall CEO of the Year award.

“This accolade highlights Dr Oppenheim’s exceptional leadership, her pivotal role in driving industry innovation, and her unwavering commitment to advancing Australian manufacturing and production standards over more than three decades,” Ego said in a statement.

“Her leadership demonstrates how science-driven innovation and a people-focused culture can go hand-in-hand with commercial growth.”



DID YOU KNOW?

That we regularly publish **Health Professional only** editions of *Pharmacy Daily*?

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Pharmacy Daily





Dispensary Corner

A 71-YEAR-OLD UK grandmother has ranked third in her age group in the gruelling Hyrox World Championships, an international indoor fitness competition that includes 8km of running and eight workout stations with exercises such as sandbag lunges and burpees.

Carole Munroe from Aberdeenshire is an enthusiastic kayaker who also enjoys playing squash, has a black belt in karate and has taken part in triathlons and twice completed the Etape Loch Ness cycle event.

She also regularly takes a dip in the North Sea.

The former army driver began taking part in Hyrox doubles two years ago, despite having just had a series of hip operations.

"After my hips went I got really depressed," she said.

"I sold my motorbike, I sold my kayak - I really was low, but then I got my hip done and I picked up again."

She completed the competition with her son, Stuart, who is also a personal trainer and taught her how to properly lift weights.

The pair call themselves 'Super Dad' and 'Super Gran' and completed the course in an hour and 30 minutes.

Munroe plans to continue taking part in Hyrox until she turns 76, when she can compete with her granddaughter who will be 16.

"I've realised the most important thing is inspiring others," she said.

"I think people look at me and think I'm completely nuts."

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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

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Differin treats acne

with a potent retinoid: Adapalene.

Differin is the first (and only)¹ acne fighting retinoid available over the counter.

Adapalene works in three ways:^{2,3}

1 Treats

acne deep in the pores at the source, to reduce redness and underlying inflammation

2 Prevents

new acne from forming by increasing cell turnover

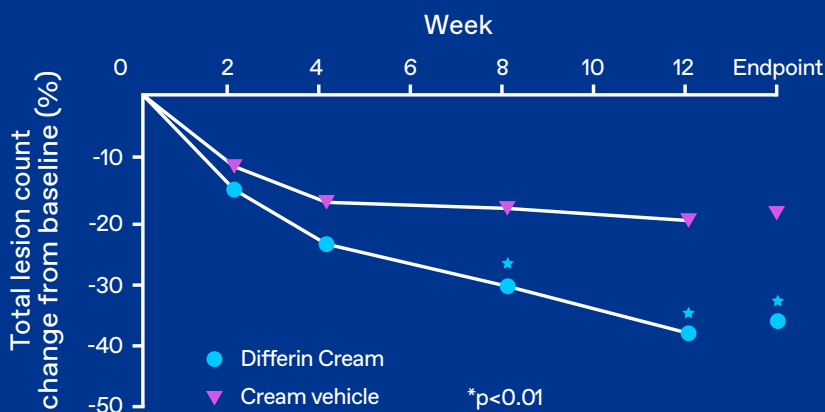
3 Restores

your skin's natural texture and tone

Acne visibly improves after just 2 weeks.⁴



Improvement in total lesion count with Differin Cream vs vehicle observed from 2 weeks.^{4,5}



Differin Cream is clinically proven to:

- Reduce visible signs of acne within 2 weeks
- Shows significant reduction within 12 weeks ($p < 0.01$)⁴

In a meta-analysis of 5 pivotal studies⁵, adapalene 0.1% gel was shown to be:

- As effective as tretinoin (0.025%) cream in reducing total lesion count at 12 weeks
- Superior in local tolerability compared to tretinoin (0.025%) cream⁵

Who can be recommended Differin?

- Differin is indicated for the treatment of mild to moderate comedonal and papulopustular acne (blackheads, whiteheads & pimples) of the face, chest or back
- Can be recommended from 12 years to adult
- Breastfeeding – can be used however should not be applied to the chest
- Pregnancy – don't use

ASK YOUR PHARMACIST ABOUT THIS PRODUCT. ALWAYS FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS FOR USE.

Apply a thin film to the affected areas once a day before bedtime and after washing. Avoid the eyes, lips and mucous membranes. The affected areas should be dry before application.

1. ARTG listing as at 15th October 2023. 2. Differin® Gel & Cream Consumer Medicines Information 2020. 3. Gollnick H et al. J Am Acad Dermatol 2003; 49(1 Suppl): S1+ S37). 4. Lucky A et al. Cutis 2001; 68 (4 Suppl): 34–40). 5. Cunliffe WJ et al. A comparison of the efficacy and tolerability of adapalene 0.1% gel versus tretinoin 0.025% gel in patients with acne vulgaris: a meta-analysis of five randomized controlled trials. Br J Dermatol. 1998 Oct; 139 Suppl 52:48–56. Galderma Australia Pty Ltd. 1 Denison St, North Sydney, Australia 206. AU-DIC-2500001

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