

4 ways to help build strong bones



Petrus
PHARMACEUTICALS

Available from Symbion, Sigma, API & CH2

Always read the label and follow the directions for use.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from **Nova Pharmaceuticals' Novella**.

Monash Grad Cert apps open today

MONASH University's new Graduate Certificate of Pharmacist Prescribing is welcoming applications for the first intake from today.

The units included in the core prescribing skills studies are accredited with conditions by the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) and are relevant to the management of 22 primary care clinical conditions such as ear infections, asthma and cardiometabolic diseases.

There are also two microcredentials that cover the diagnosis and management of specific primary care conditions, such as travel health and contraception.

The part-time program takes a year to complete, and requires both online and in-person learning.

Click **HERE** for more info.

Market sentiment positive

DEMAND is strong for pharmacists looking to buy pharmacies, according to the most recent results of the Attain Pharmacy Market Sentiment Survey, with data also suggesting that future supply is likely to increase in the next few years.

The survey takes place every four months and included 60 pharmacists and pharmacy owners across Australia.

Almost half (47%) said they were looking to buy a pharmacy within the next 12 months, and over one-third (37.5%) said they were looking to sell within the next five years.

"The results from the Oct/Nov 2025 Pharmacy Market Sentiment Survey continue to show strong



demand for pharmacists looking to buy pharmacies," said Attain Director Natalie Sirianni.

"The good news is that the data is also showing better likely future supply of pharmacies on the market with increased proportion of pharmacy owners looking to sell their pharmacy (or one of them) in the next year and next five years."

Sirianni also pointed to strong optimism around pharmacy business prices over the next 12 months, with three-quarters of the sample believing that pharmacy business prices will increase over the next 12 months - the highest level since the survey started in July 2020. **KB**

Denosumab safety warning

SAFETY information for denosumab medicines (Prolia and biosimilars) used to treat osteoporosis has been updated, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised.

The existing warning for multiple spinal fractures after discontinuation or delay of treatment injections has been strengthened.

New spinal fractures have occurred as early as seven months after the last dose of the drug, which is administered six-monthly.

The safety update stresses that people being treated with denosumab should not stop or delay treatment without speaking to their doctor, and prescribers should consider switching patients to an alternative therapy if treatment is discontinued.

Health professionals including pharmacists are urged to communicate with each other and with patients around the requirements of the treatment - more **HERE**.

Emergency med

NOVA Pharmaceuticals' emergency contraception Novella-1 is available now to order for dispensing by pharmacists to appropriately counselled customers - see **p3**.



Soothes & Protects
against irritation caused
by incontinence

Always read the label and follow directions for use.

teva

Natural formula for the
effective relief
of sore throats

Available in all wholesalers

ORDER NOW

Always read the label and follow the directions for use.

AUSTRALIAN MADE

DNP
Photo Imaging

Supplied by **JAD**
LABORATORY

Trusted by Australian pharmacies.

DNP DST10 'ALL IN ONE' SNAPLAB

The all-in-one photo kiosk
Australia trusts. *Compact & intuitive.
Ideal for pharmacy.*



HIGH RETURN ON INVESTMENT WITH EVERY PHOTO



Dispensary Corner

THE old question about whether wine is good or bad for you has come up again, this time in the context of longevity.

Dan Buettner, a leading longevity researcher, has conducted extensive studies on the lifestyle habits of residents in regions known as the 'Blue Zones', communities whose inhabitants consistently enjoy long lives.

He recently pointed out that 87% of 90-year-olds living in the Mediterranean Blue Zones report drinking wine daily.

"Could they live longer if they didn't drink at all? Maybe.

"But what is indisputable is that wine has been part of their diet and culture for millennia, and it's just as likely that if we took wine away from them, they would live shorter lives."

However, the messaging is at odds with contemporary advice that alcohol is 'poison', leaving experts to suggest that other lifestyle factors may be responsible for their longevity.

"To my mind, it's all about a healthy lifestyle: exercise, managing stress, getting enough sleep, eating good food, having a social life," said Australian GP Dr Hester Wilson.

"For some people, having that glass of wine is part of that quality of life because they're already doing all the other good things," she told the *Daily Mail*.

Dr Wilson urged people to consider the circumstances in which they drink: "make it occasional and make sure it's part of celebration, part of your social life," she stressed.

Is it the right vaccine?

PHARMACEUTICAL Defence Limited (PDL) is reminding pharmacists about the importance of covering off key checkpoints before administering a vaccine to ensure the correct one is provided.

The professional indemnity insurers provided a case study where a 28-year-old patient presented a prescription for 'varicella' vaccine required for a new job.

After conducting pre-screening checks, a review of the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) and obtaining consent, the pharmacist dispensed and administered varicella zoster vaccine, Shingrix.

However, it emerged that it was the chickenpox vaccine that was required rather than Shingrix, which left the patient at risk of not completing both doses before the start of their new job.

PDL highlighted several factors that potentially contributed to the error, along with steps to mitigate the risk of error.

Firstly, it is important to confirm the intended indication of the vaccine with the patient and/or prescriber, not just the indication of the selected vaccine.

In this case, the vaccine was



required for protection in a new job setting, for which Shingrix is not usually required.

Secondly, pharmacists should review the clinical appropriateness of the selected vaccine for the patient - Shingrix is only recommended in this patient's age group for those who are immunocompromised.

Other important steps are to:

- review the patient's Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) record;
- confirm patient eligibility for NIP/NIPVIP;
- obtain informed consent;
- check regulatory authorisation and requirements in the relevant jurisdiction; and
- consider your individual scope of practice.

PDL also highlighted the new cold chain management guidance (**PD 07 Nov**). **KB**

New drugs for CF, multiple myeloma

TWO new drugs have been added to the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) in recent days, with cystic fibrosis (CF) patients and those with multiple myeloma potentially able to benefit.

Alyftrek (vanzacافت/tezacافت/deutivacافت, Vertex) has been approved by the TGA for the treatment of people aged six years and older who meet the diagnostic criteria for CF and who have a responsive mutation in the CF transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene.

It is the latest treatment option for CF and the fifth CFTR modulator to be approved in Australia.

The once daily, triple combination therapy, targets the underlying cause of the disease by improving CFTR function at and below the cell surface.

MEANWHILE, an antibody drug conjugate Blenrep (belantamab mafodotin, GSK) has become the first drug of its kind to be approved for multiple myeloma, a cancer with 2,600 new cases each year.

The so-called "Trojan Horse" treatment comprises a monoclonal antibody connected to an anti-cancer medicine, which finds the cancer cells and delivers the anti-cancer drug directly inside the cell.

It is registered for use in adults with multiple myeloma who have relapsed or become resistant to first-line treatment as part of a triplet combination.

An application for PBS listing is pending.

PBAC March 2026 agenda available

THE agenda for the March 2026 meeting of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) is now available online.

Among items for consideration is an application for the PBS listing of adrenaline nasal spray Neffy (Seqirus) for the emergency treatment of severe allergic reactions with anaphylaxis.

Also on the list is a request to change to the National Immunisation Program (NIP)

listing of Arexvy (GSK) to extend eligibility to individuals aged 60 to 74 years who are at high risk of lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV, while Celltrion has requested PBS listing of two new forms of its omalizumab biosimilar Omlyclo for severe asthma and urticaria.

PBAC welcomes comment from any interested party before the consultation closing date of 21 Jan 2026 - the agenda is **HERE**.



**Get your
special
pharmacy
deal now.**

NOVELLA-1

**“YOUR CHOICE” FOR
EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION**

CONTACT NOVA on 1300 904 541 TODAY



N070125aS31.0 Ask your pharmacist about this product. Always read the label and follow the directions for use. For details on health warnings please see: <https://novapharm.com.au/products/novella-1-levonorgestrel-1-5mg/>