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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from **Glucjel**, and the **October MIMS Monthly Update**.

All treats, no tricks

CUSTOMERS have a chance to win the ultimate Halloween treat haul - a year's supply of Glucjel beans and bears.

Make sure your shelves are fully stocked with these popular products - see **page three** for more.

New CHO for Qld

CHRIS Owen, President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Queensland, has welcomed the announcement of Dr Marianne Gale as Queensland's next Chief Health Officer (CHO) and Deputy Director-General, Population Health Division.

Owen said that Dr Gale's experience as Acting CHO in NSW and her expertise in communicable disease, health equity and chronic disease prevention, places her in an excellent position to take on these senior roles.

"We are looking forward to partnering with Dr Gale as we work to ensure Queenslanders across the state can access more health services through community pharmacy," he said.

Owen also paid tribute to Interim Chief Health Officers Dr Catherine McDougall and Dr Heidi Carroll, having worked together through a challenging flu season this year, and wished them well.

eNRMC conformance crunch

PHARMACISTS have raised concerns about the rapidly approaching end of the transitional arrangement for the use of Electronic National Residential Medication Charts (eNRMC), with systems that are non-conformant no longer able to be used for prescriptions after 21 Oct - an extension of the original cut-off date of 01 Oct.

While residential aged care homes can continue to use a non-conformant system for administration purposes, prescribers will need to use a paper NRMC or create separate electronic or paper PBS prescriptions, creating extra work, while pharmacists will need to dispense from these alternative scripts.

As *PD* went to press, three eNRMC systems were non-conformant: emma (Compact Business Systems), MedPoint (Telstra Health) and StrongCare (StrongRoom Technology).

Karen Simpson, CEO at Compact, told *Pharmacy Daily* that emma will achieve conformance before the deadline.

"Our eNRMC Observed Testing Assessment with the Australian Digital Health Agency commenced this morning and will run for three days," she said.

"We are confident that this process will result in us attaining full conformance before 21 Oct 2025."

Similarly, Carrie Shen, Head of Sales at StrongRoom AI, told *Pharmacy Daily*: "I can confirm that StrongCare will be fully conformant by 21 Oct 2025."

MedPoint, however, will not be conformant.

Telstra Health sent an email



to users of MedPoint last week explaining the system would not achieve conformance by the deadline, while assuring users it is "moving quickly to implement the required changes to achieve conformance".

"Based on current indications, we anticipate full eNRMC conformance will take two to three months unless any major issues arise in the latter part of conformance," the email continued.

"We sincerely apologise and thank you for your understanding.

"Please be assured this remains our highest priority and we will continue to keep you informed as new information becomes available."

Telstra Health also provided some suggested workflow documents for prescribers, pharmacists and nurses administering the medicines.

One pharmacist, speaking on condition of anonymity, described the situation as a "debacle", wondering how long Telstra Health had known about the conformance issue, and why the information was shared at a seemingly late stage.

Another pharmacist, who also preferred to remain anonymous, was concerned by the late notice and pointed out the delay is "creating new paper processes for pharmacies".

PD has reached out to Telstra Health for comment. *KB*

Public holiday Mon

THERE will be no Monday edition of *Pharmacy Daily* due to a public holiday.

We will be back on Tue 07 Oct.

Prilocaine/lidocaine overdose warning

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has warned of the risk of overdose when using prilocaine/lidocaine cream (EMLA and various generic brands) in young babies, after investigating two recent adverse event cases.

Serious side effects associated with overdose include methaemoglobinaemia - a condition that reduces the ability of red blood cells to carry oxygen around the body.

Symptoms may include headache, dizziness, shortness of breath, nausea, poor muscle coordination and bluish appearance of the skin, and in severe cases seizures, irregular heart rhythm or even death.

The regulator has worked with the pharmaceutical companies that supply the products to ensure they include appropriate information about the risk of overdose.

Health professionals are urged to provide clear instructions about using any topical anaesthetic, noting that overdose risk is particularly high for infants.

"In the case of use on infants and young children, they should emphasise to parents and carers that using only the recommended amount for the prescribed length of time is essential to prevent potential overdose," the TGA said.



Congratulations Priceline Pharmacy Torquay on receiving the 2025 Retail Award from Torquay Business Awards.



priceline pharmacy



Wesfarmers Health



Dispensary Corner

PRESCRIBING medicine is so old-school - why not prescribe a holiday instead?

Sweden has become the first country available on doctor's orders, with patients around the world now able to request a medical referral to visit.

The country is actively working to raise awareness of doctor-recommended activities it offers as alternative treatment options.

These include immersions in nature, and social and cultural activities, which have now been found to have "restorative powers", according to London-based GP, Dr Sam Everington.

A list of experiences detailing specific health benefits - each reviewed by a senior professor - is now available and can be downloaded by the public.

CLICK HERE to check it out.

Furthermore, a global YouGov survey has found nearly seven in 10 doctors in the UK would recommend visiting Sweden as a way to improve health.

More than 80% of UK doctors surveyed said they would consider prescribing a visit to Sweden even if patients did not request one.

The YouGov study found 73% of people had never heard of a social prescription, with 66% saying they would be open to spending time in nature if their physician prescribed it.

Sweden is home to 267,570 islands, and with nearly 70% of the country enjoying forest cover, only 3% of its land area is inhabited.

Stockholm is also home to the world's first urban national park.

CWH extends NRL partnership

CHEMIST Warehouse has extended its long-standing partnership with the National Rugby League (NRL), with the partnership set to continue until the end of the 2029 season.

This reaffirms CWH's position as the official pharmacy partner of the NRL, including the men's and women's premierships and key representative events.

"As a brand that's all about being accessible, energetic and committed to wellness and performance, Chemist Warehouse is proud to continue our partnership with the NRL," said Mario Tascone, Deputy CEO, Chemist Warehouse.

"This decade-long alliance speaks to the strength of our relationship and our shared values.

"We're excited to keep delivering



value, connection and wellness to the rugby league community, from grassroots to grand final," Tascone concluded.

The partnership will bring fans activations, exclusive offers and the return of the popular NRL Fan Zone, where they can win prizes, test their skills on the tackle course and meet with stars of the game. **KB**

Pictured: National Rugby League CEO Andrew Abdo and CWH Managing Pharmacist Partner Pierre BouAntoun.

Call for needle-free flu vax in Tas

THE Tasmanian Government has been urged to follow the lead of other states and territories and commit to a rollout of free intranasal influenza vaccines for children from next year (**PD** 02 Oct).

"Why should Tasmanian families deserve no less?" asked Royal Australian College of GPs Tas Chair, Dr Toby Gardner.

"We must do all we can to keep young children, who are among the most at risk from a severe flu infection including hospitalisation, as safe as possible," he continued.

"I can't think of a more cost-effective and timely healthcare initiative than this one - it just makes sense."

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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

MICROSHIELD® - now available for use at home

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- pH balanced skin cleanser - MICROSHIELD® Skincare

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New Products

- Capivasertib (Truqap)** is an inhibitor of the kinase activity of all 3 isoforms of serine/threonine kinase AKT (AKT1, AKT2 and AKT3). AKT is a pivotal node in the phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K) signalling cascade regulating multiple cellular processes including cellular survival, proliferation, cell cycle, metabolism, gene transcription and cell migration. AKT activation in tumours is a result of upstream activation from other signalling pathways, mutations of AKT, loss of Phosphatase and Tensin Homolog (PTEN) function and mutations in the catalytic subunit of PI3K (PIK3CA). Capivasertib inhibits the phosphorylation of AKT substrates such as glycogen synthase kinase 3- β and proline-rich AKT substrate of 40 kilodaltons. Capivasertib reduces growth of a range of cell lines derived from solid tumours and haematological disease. Multiple breast cancer cell lines were sensitive to capivasertib monotherapy. Within cell lines showing greater sensitivity to capivasertib there was an enrichment of PIK3CA or AKT1 mutations, or loss of PTEN. Some cell lines lacking such mutations were also sensitive to capivasertib. Combined treatment with capivasertib and fulvestrant demonstrated a greater anti-tumour response in a range of human breast cancer PDX models representative of different breast cancer subsets. *Truqap is indicated in combination with fulvestrant for the treatment of adult patients with hormone receptor positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 negative (defined as IHC 0 or 1+, or IHC 2+/*ISH*-) locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer following recurrence or progression on or after an endocrine based regimen.* Truqap tablets contain capivasertib 160 mg or 200 mg and are available in packs of 64.
- Toripalimab (Zytorvi)** is a humanised immunoglobulin G4 monoclonal antibody that binds to the programmed cell death protein-1 (PD-1) receptor and blocks its interaction with programmed cell death-ligand 1 (PD-L1) and PD-L2, releasing PD-1 pathway mediated inhibition of the immune response, including the anti-tumour immune response. Binding of the PD-1 ligands, PD-L1 and PD-L2, to the PD-1 receptor found on T cells, inhibits T cell proliferation and cytokine production. Upregulation of PD-1 ligands occurs in some tumours and signalling through this pathway can contribute to inhibition of active T cell immune surveillance of tumours. In syngeneic mouse tumour models, blocking PD-1 activity resulted in decreased tumour growth. *Zytorvi is indicated, in combination with cisplatin and gemcitabine, for the first-line treatment of adults with metastatic or recurrent, locally advanced nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC); and as a single agent, for the treatment of adults with recurrent unresectable or metastatic NPC with disease progression on or after a platinum-containing chemotherapy.* Zytorvi concentrate for infusion contains toripalimab 240 mg per 6 mL and is available in packs of 1 vial.

New Indications

- Daratumumab (rch) (Darzalex SC)** is now indicated in combination with bortezomib, lenalidomide, and dexamethasone, followed by maintenance treatment in combination with lenalidomide for the treatment of patients with newly diagnosed multiple myeloma who are eligible for autologous stem cell transplant.
- Macitentan (Opsumit)** is now indicated as monotherapy or in combination, in paediatric patients (2 years to less than 18 years of age) for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension (idiopathic, heritable, associated with connective tissue disease, associated with congenital heart disease with repaired shunts or with co-incidental congenital heart disease) with WHO functional class I, II, III or IV symptoms. Currently, 2.5 mg dispersible tablets are not available, so only children ≥ 40 kg can be dosed with 10 mg tablets.
- Semaglutide (rys) (Ozempic)** is now indicated as an adjunct to standard of care therapy to reduce the risk of sustained decline of kidney function and to reduce the risk of cardiovascular death in adults with type 2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease.

New Contraindications

- Colchicine (Colgout)** is now contraindicated in patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, total lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption.
- Fulvestrant (Fulvestrant Sandoz)** is now contraindicated in severe hepatic impairment and lactation.
- Isosorbide dinitrate (Isordil)** is now contraindicated in hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy.
- Procarbazine (hydrochloride) (Natulan)** is now contraindicated in breastfeeding.
- Rifampicin (Rifadin)** is now contraindicated for concomitant use with cabotegravir, fostemsavir and lenacapavir..

*This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month.
Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.*