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Guild, AMA unite on med cannabis

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Australian Medical Association (AMA) have written a joint letter to Health Minister Mark Butler calling for urgent action to tackle the largely unregulated increase in medicinal cannabis prescribing and dispensing across the country.

The organisations expressed concerns about the overuse and inadequate regulation of prescribing practices, the prolonged reliance on special access schemes for medicinal cannabis, and the growing number of prescribing and dispensing clinics operating outside conventional models of care.

The letter also flagged issues around coercive tactics used by cannabis companies and the negative health impacts, especially on vulnerable groups.

The two peak bodies have lodged submissions to the TGA's review into the safety and regulatory

oversight of unapproved medicinal cannabis products.

The organisations are calling on the government to:

- enhance clinical governance through national safety and quality agencies;
- support Ahpra in addressing inappropriate prescribing and dispensing practices;
- reform the Special Access Scheme, limiting use to exceptional cases under strict supervision; and
- encourage product registration on the ARTG for evidence-based indications within two years.

They also called for an immediate suspension of Category 5 products containing THC concentrations above 98%.

"We are seeing a system that is being exploited - with prescriptions issued without proper clinical oversight and patients bypassing their regular GP and pharmacist," said Guild National President Professor Trent Twomey.

"What began as a special pathway for medication has now become the norm, with thousands of products prescribed without safety, quality or efficacy controls," he said as he urged stronger governance and regulation to protect patients. *KB*

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Chemsave
- Nova Pharmaceuticals

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Learn more on **page four**.

Treat skin conditions

NOVA Pharmaceuticals has a range of topical treatments for skin conditions, including anti-fungal Trimacorte, containing clotrimazole and hydrocortisone.

Also available is Dermacorte, containing hydrocortisone, for itching and inflammation.

See more on **page five**.

Cold Power safe for allergies, asthma

COLD Power Sensitive laundry liquids have been approved by the National Asthma Council Australia (NAC) Sensitive Choice program to display the blue butterfly logo.

Cold Power Sensitive laundry liquid, sold in many pharmacies, has been reviewed and approved by an independent expert panel as providing potential benefit to those with asthma or allergies.

Detergents and cleaning products with harsh chemicals and fragrances are common household asthma and allergy triggers.

Connection, support key to rural retention

STRENGTHENING community ties, managing workloads effectively, and delivering timely professional development for early-career allied health professionals are key to improving staff retention and healthcare outcomes in rural Australia, new research suggests.

As regional towns continue to face high staff turnover and limited resources, a Flinders University study has identified both personal and organisational factors that can help attract and retain allied health workers, including pharmacists.

Lead author Dr Ali Dymmott, Academic Lead of Rural Allied Health at Flinders University, said the findings show that success depends as much on the environment as the training itself.

"Our research found that factors including community integration, local support and the right timing of enrolment were just as critical as the program content," said Dr Dymmott.

"It's not simply about offering training, it's about creating the right environment for allied health professionals to thrive in rural settings.

"The regions desperately need more allied health professionals, so it's vital we find solutions to not only encourage people to work in rural Australia, but to feel supported and connected enough to stay."

This project builds on earlier evaluations of South Australia's Allied Health Rural Generalist Pathway, a postgraduate, work-integrated education program aimed at strengthening clinical

skills and improving service delivery among early-career allied health professionals in rural areas.

Previous research found the program had a positive impact on both participants and the communities they served.

Another study confirmed its economic viability, showing a strong return on investment when supporting trainees.

In the latest study, researchers followed 15 allied health professionals working in regional South Australia who participated in the Rural Generalist Pathway.

Through interviews and surveys with trainees, supervisors, and managers, the study explored which individuals were most likely to complete the program and the factors that contributed to their success.

"When participants are motivated, supported by their



organisation and connected to their community, they are far more likely to complete the training and stay in regional practice," said Dr Dymmott.

Waiting until they had obtained at least a year of rural experience before undertaking postgraduate study was another factor in success.

"Our research further provides practical insights for health services planning future workforce initiatives, including selecting the right people, ensuring adequate supervision and study time, and fostering community belonging," Dr Dymmott concluded.

Read the paper **HERE**. KB

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Beauty & Wellness

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Dispensary Corner

IN A paper published in the *Journal of Hepatology* this month, doctors in China reported transplanting a genetically modified pig liver into a 71-year-old man, who lived for 171 days afterwards.

In the past, some scientists have transplanted genetically modified pig kidneys and hearts into humans, although some have expressed concerns about the complicated process of using the liver, given its larger size and dual blood supply and multiple functions.

"Everyone always says, 'liver is too complicated to transplant, compared to the heart or kidney,' but after this, in the future, I think people will think differently," said Dr Beicheng Sun, president of the First Affiliated Hospital of Anhui Medical University and a co-author of the study.

The transplant seemed successful at first, although there were some complications throughout the first month, until the doctors decided his liver could function on its own and the pig's organ was removed.

However, by day 135, the man developed upper gastrointestinal bleeding, which led to his death after the procedure.

According to Dr Heiner Wedemeyer, who co-authored an editorial that was published alongside the study, the research offers important insights into the feasibility of such a transplant of future patients.

"A pig liver gives us completely new opportunities, and that can really be promising for patients."

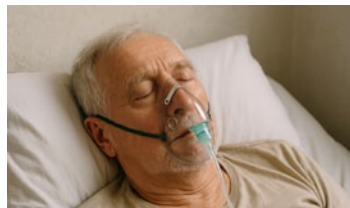
OSA combined therapy best

COMBINED treatment addressing both upper airway collapse and instability in the regulation of breathing in obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA) have shown promise in a recent study.

OSA is caused not only by the anatomical tendency of the upper airway - particularly the pharynx - to narrow or collapse during sleep, but also an instability in the regulation of breathing - a leading but underappreciated non-anatomical cause.

The Monash and Harvard-led study of 41 people with moderate-to-severe OSA tested whether combining a ventilatory control intervention - supplemental oxygen - with an upper airway mechanical intervention mandibular advancement device, known as MAD, improved treatment efficacy.

MADs are commonly used to treat OSA, while supplemental



oxygen tends to be used for other respiratory disorders, such as COPD and emphysema.

The study found that treating both aspects of OSA with multiple treatments markedly reduced severity compared with either treatment alone.

Despite there being a combination of anatomical and non-anatomical issues behind OSA, this is the first time this combination has been tried in these patients, explained Associate Professor Brad Edwards, from the Monash University School of Psychological Sciences.

Read the paper [HERE](#). KB

GST guidance for burns products

THE Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has provided updated guidance on how GST applies to burn products that are made of hydro gel and hydro colloids.

Burns products made from alginate, hydro colloids, hydro gels, polyurethane film and polyurethane foam are GST-free if they are specifically designed for people with an illness or disability.

If they are widely used by people without an illness or disability, they are not GST-free.

Most burn products that are gels, sprays or creams are designed for, or widely used by people with burns that are considered minor or trivial (including superficial burns, sunburn and scalds), and are not GST-free, as they are not specifically designed for people with an illness or disability.

The ATO acknowledged that its previous advice "may have given the impression that burn gels, sprays or creams made from hydro colloids or hydro gel are GST-free".

As such, a transitional compliance approach is now in effect, and the organisation will not take compliance action regarding GST treatment of these products for tax periods ending on or before 31 Dec 2025, provided suppliers acted in good faith and do not seek to now take advantage of the transitional compliance approach.

The ATO advises that if a business supplies any of these products, owners need to check they are applying GST correctly - learn more [HERE](#).

HPS moves onsite at Nepean Private

HPS Pharmacies has announced the official opening of its new onsite pharmacy at Nepean Private Hospital in Kingswood, Sydney, marking a significant milestone in the partnership between HPS and Healthscope and delivering enhanced pharmacy services for patients.

A leading acute care facility in western Sydney, featuring 109 beds and 11 operating theatres, Nepean Private Hospital will benefit from the move of the offsite HPS Pharmacies Norwest to an onsite service.

It will provide comprehensive hospital dispensary services, professional expertise, and discharge medications, supporting patient care and



improving integration with clinical teams.

"The pharmacy has been a long-awaited addition to the onsite services, and we are excited to see its positive impact on patient care," said Jay Jiang, General Manager of Nepean Private Hospital.

HPS Pharmacies provides pharmacy services across the majority of Healthscope's 38 hospitals nationwide.

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