

Today's issue of PD

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

- Chemist Discount Centre
- MediChoice

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Assistants and technicians celebrated

PHARMACY Technicians and Assistants Day was celebrated yesterday, with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) lauding the crucial support staff who ensure smooth operations and enhance the quality of care provided to patients every day.

"As the scope of practice for many pharmacists continues to expand, the role of pharmacy assistants and technicians is becoming even more integral to everything we do," said PSA National President Associate Professor Fei Sim.

"From administrative or backend support to direct patient interactions, their contribution to the overall team capacity and efficiency is invaluable," she stated.

Assoc Prof Sim highlighted the importance of supporting the technicians and assistants with training and upskilling opportunities, noting that the PSA is investing in this area.

"On this Pharmacy Technicians and Assistants Day, the PSA extends its heartfelt thanks to all pharmacy support staff for their tireless efforts and commitment to improving the health and well-being of Australians," Assoc Prof Sim concluded.



MEANWHILE, Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) marked the day with the launch of the first Australasian Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacy Technicians in Hospitals and Health Services (2025).

"The launch of [the standards] marks another defining moment, paving the way for a stronger, more connected, and better supported pharmacy technician workforce," said AdPha President Assoc Prof Tom Simpson.

"Tasmania's leadership in pharmacy technician development is helping set the standard for the rest of Australia - demonstrating how empowering every member of the health workforce leads to better care for every patient."

Tasmanian Minister for Health

Bridget Archer officiated at the launch, which took place at Launceston General Hospital.

"AdPha's competency standards will help technicians work to their full potential under pharmacist supervision, freeing pharmacists to focus on clinical care and improving patient outcomes," Archer said. **KB**

Pictured: Tom Simpson, Bridget Archer and Leah Di Guglielmo, Lead Pharmacy Technician at Launceston General Hospital.

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1. Lucky A et al. Cutis 2001; 68 (4 Suppl):34-40.
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Manage pain

MEDICHOICE'S new Ibuprofen Mini liquid capsules provide rapid pain relief in an easy-to-swallow format.

Learn more about the MediChoice analgesic range on [page five](#).

More sunscreens recalled

TWO further sunscreen products, Outside Beauty & Skincare SPF 50+ Mineral Primer and Salus SPF 50+ Daily Facial Sunscreen, have been recalled after preliminary tests indicated that the SPF levels may be lower than that claimed on labels.

The two sunscreens use the same base formulation as Ultra Violette Lean Screen SPF 50+ sunscreen, which was found in Choice tests to have an SPF of 4 ([PD 12 Jun](#)).

Call for cannabis collaboration

THE Australian Medicinal Cannabis Association (AMCA) and Medicinal Cannabis Industry Australia (MCIA) have called for cross-sector collaboration among healthcare stakeholders as public submissions to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) consultation on the safety and regulatory oversight of unapproved medicinal cannabis products close.

"Reform must be guided by science, patient experience and a shared commitment to quality and safety," said Teresa Nicoletti, Chair of AMCA.

Patients happy with dispensing status quo

AUSTRALIAN research into medication delivery and dispensing preferences in patients using antihypertensive medications has revealed that despite the potential convenience of longer dispensing periods, most were happy with shorter periods.

"The survey shows strong consumer preferences for the status quo overall - picking up antihypertensives every one to two months from a pharmacy is highly acceptable, and consumers cited various benefits from going to the pharmacy regularly," lead author Assoc Prof Carissa Bonner of the University of Sydney told *Pharmacy Daily*.

Reasons for preferring shorter dispensing periods (30 or 60 days) included concerns about medicine quality, expiry, storage and changes in dose.

However, when the cost implications of the different options were provided, most preferred longer dispensing periods with associated cost savings.

They also found that patients overwhelmingly preferred to visit

a pharmacy to get their medicine rather than have it delivered, citing reasons including the opportunity for social interaction, exercise and medical advice.

"We identified different groups of consumers - some found pharmacy pick-up to be convenient and reassuring, and did not trust delivery, while others said they would prefer the convenience of delivery with longer dispensing durations, especially when it saves on costs," Assoc Prof Bonner explained.

The team from the University of Sydney and UNSW Sydney surveyed 2,000 adults who take antihypertensive medicines, asking questions around 30-, 60-, 90- and 120-day dispensing intervals, as well as postal delivery versus in-person collection.

The aim of the research was to obtain data that could help inform dispensing policy in the context of pushback against longer dispensing periods.

The team noted that in 2022, the



Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) recommended 60- or 90-day dispensing periods for hypertension medications, which was supported by the Australian Hypertension Taskforce.

The World Health Organization recommends 90-day dispensing periods to help improve medication adherence and long-term blood pressure control.

Assoc Prof Bonner said that further analyses are underway to investigate the drivers of these different preferences, and the results will inform a large trial to test whether longer dispensing can improve medication adherence.

The research is available [HERE](#). KB

Irish speakers to provide EU insights at APP2026

TWO eminent speakers from Ireland will share insights into the transformative changes underway in Irish community pharmacy at the Australasian Pharmacy Professional Conference & Trade Exhibition (APP2026).

Clare Fitzell, who has the dual positions of President of the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union and Secretary General of the Irish Pharmacy Union, and Tom Murray, President of the Irish Pharmacy Union and Treasurer of the World Pharmacy

Council, will headline two key sessions and also participate in panel sessions.

Among the topics covered will be an update of changes in pharmacist scope of practice across key European markets.

Their presentations come hot on the heels of the recently announced Irish Community Pharmacy Agreement 2025, which significantly expands the role of pharmacists in Ireland's healthcare system.

Enhanced services will

include pharmacist prescribing, participation in the national pneumococcal vaccination program, and greater involvement in public health initiatives, such as bowel cancer screening.

APP2026 Convenor Kos Sclavos called the inclusion of these speakers "a major drawcard", pointing out that Ireland is leading the way in Europe in demonstrating how community pharmacy can be a cornerstone of primary healthcare.

See more on APP2026 [HERE](#).

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Dispensary Corner

MOST people sleep through surgery, but not Denise Bacon, who played clarinet while she underwent brain surgery.

The 65-year-old London woman, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2014, stayed awake during the four-hour operation, allowing surgeons to see and hear the immediate impact of their work as she exercised her musical skills.

After years of struggling to walk, swim, dance and play her clarinet, Bacon experienced instant improvement in the dexterity of her fingers as the doctors stimulated her brain with an electrical current.

The procedure is known as deep brain stimulation (DBS), and is considered one of the most effective therapies to control the motor symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

"As a keen clarinetist, it was suggested Denise bring her clarinet into the operating theatre to see whether the procedure would improve her ability to play, which was one of Denise's main goals for the surgery," said the neurosurgeon who performed the DBS, Professor Keyoumars Ashkan.

"We were delighted to see an instant improvement in her hand movements, and therefore her ability to play, once stimulation was delivered to the brain."

Bacon now has a rechargeable type of pulse generator battery implanted in her chest, which will monitor her brain activity and automatically adjust electrical stimulation when needed.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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

APOHEALTH's Esomeprazole is on promotion until 31 Dec 2025

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The product moisturises, comforts and refreshes dry, tired and strained eyes.

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Suitable for use with contact lenses.

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From set-up to team development, our Pharmacy Business Managers walk the journey with you – every step of the way.

What our members say:



"As a franchisee of Chemist Discount Centre, we can confidently say that partnering with them has been a game-changer for our business at Wallan and Kilmore. The support and resources provided by the franchise team have been exceptional, allowing us to thrive in a competitive market."

Bi Jing You, Kim Ling Ching, Hooi-yin Tan & Kee Tat
Proprietors, Chemist Discount Centre Wallan & Kilmore



"Working with Chemist Discount Centre has been an exceptional experience over the last 4 years. Their dedication to quality and customer satisfaction is truly commendable. Having support from my Pharmacy Business Manager has helped with strategic planning, financial management, operational efficiency, compliance expertise and staff development. I'd recommend the brand to anyone looking for a true 'discount model' solution."

Tracy Minett
Proprietor, Chemist Discount Centre Bass Hill & Chester Hill

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