

Today's issue of PD

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

- Differin
- Maxofen

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 three**.

Maximise your day

NEW Maxofen from Nova Pharmaceuticals combines paracetamol and ibuprofen for double-action relief from acute pain and fever.

Available in packs of 12 and 30 tablets.

See details on **page four**.

PBS boost for women's health

HEALTH Minister Mark Butler announced this morning that Organon's NuvaRing (etonogestrel with ethinylestradiol contraceptive) vaginal ring three-pack will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from 01 Nov 2025, providing an additional affordable contraceptive option for Australian women.

Before the listing, women might have paid more than \$270 a year for NuvaRing - now they will pay less than half that, with each three-month pack costing \$31.60 per script or \$7.70 for concession holders.

From 01 Jan 2026, under the government's policy, that cost will reduce again to a maximum of just \$25 per script.

Also announced were changes to the Medicare Benefits Schedule that will make long-acting reversible contraceptives like IUDs and birth control implants more affordable.

"Australia has one of the lowest uptake rates in the developed

world of long-acting contraceptives, partly due to access and affordability," Minister Butler said.

"These changes to the MBS and expanded options though the PBS will remove cost and access barriers so that more women can choose the contraceptive option that works best for them," he added.

The initiatives are part of the government's \$573.3 million women's health package announced earlier this year (**PD** 10 Feb), which was designed to improve access and affordability of care for women.

Dr Sara Whitburn, Medical Director of Sexual Health Victoria, welcomed the addition of NuvaRing to the PBS.

"Expanding the range of affordable contraceptive options by adding NuvaRing to the PBS helps increase contraceptive choice by reducing the cost barriers that may prevent women from finding the type of contraception that works best for them," said Dr Whitburn. *KB*

Vita-D Mini Tablets

Supports bone health, muscle strength and calcium absorption.

NEW

Available in 90's and 250's
Symbion, Sigma, API & CH2

Always read the label and follow directions for use. 



International role for TGA head

PROFESSOR Tony Lawler, Head of Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), has been elected Chair of the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA) for a three-year term.

ICMRA is a collaboration of more than 40 international medicines regulators, with the TGA being one of the eight founding members when it was established in 2013.

"I am honoured to accept the role of Chair of ICMRA, and I recognise the responsibility that comes with such an important global role," Prof Lawler said.

ICMRA plays a vital part in protecting global public health by facilitating information exchange, addressing current and emerging safety concerns, and promoting collaboration among international regulators.

PAIN RELIEF THAT LASTS THE WORKING DAY

With once or twice daily dosing^{1*}

*Directions - First Day: Initial Dose 2 capsules. Subsequent Days: 1 capsule once or twice daily. A working day is typically 8-12 hours.



NOW AVAILABLE WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION FOR PAIN RELIEF FROM MUSCLE AND JOINT INJURIES¹



Click here or scan the QR code to access our CPD accredited module. 1.5 CPD credits

Indications: Short-term relief of pain from muscle and joint injuries, and period pain. Before recommending please review the full Product Information available from https://medsinfo.com.au/product-information/document/Celebrex_Relief_PI

References: 1. CELEBREX RELIEF® (celecoxib) Product Information.

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Dispensary Corner

YOU wouldn't typically pull up to your local pharmacy to quench a whisky craving...unless, perhaps, you are living in Baltimore in the US state of Maryland.

Those who enter Drug City in Dundalk expecting to find only aisles of medical and beauty products will be left wide-eyed when they realise there is also an on-site liquor store, which features a front display of bourbon bottles and an old-school style soda fountain.

Here, you can get everything from deli sandwiches and ice-cream floats to house-made, old-fashioned craft cocktails... all while waiting for your prescriptions to be filled.

As if that doesn't already add plenty of unexpected excitement to your pharmacy visit, why not throw in a moody and mysterious speakeasy.

Yes, that's right - pharmacy customers can head through a door in the back corner of the store, which will take them up a staircase and into a dimly lit hallway, at the end of which they will find a stately bookcase.

At the push of a black button, the bookcase will swing open to reveal a hidden room beyond it, equipped with leather armchairs, rustic wooden tables, and a bust of Shakespeare.

According to Drug City owner George Fotis, the secret club hosts monthly events featuring master distillers, who pop in to host talks and tastings.

"We've had whiskey royalty here - the top people in the industry," Fotis revealed to *Baltimore Magazine*.

National teams up on travel

NATIONAL Pharmacies and Phil Hoffmann Travel have announced a partnership that combines expert travel health advice with tailored travel planning.

Unveiled at the 35th Phil Hoffmann Travel Expo in Adelaide, the collaboration between the two iconic South Australian businesses brings together National Pharmacies' in-pharmacy travel vaccination service and Phil Hoffmann Travel's award-winning travel planning expertise.

National Pharmacies launched its Travel Health Service earlier this year following the expansion of pharmacists' scope of practice, enabling them to provide travel vaccinations in South Australia.

Pharmacists will go through travellers' destinations, planned



activities, medical history, any specific health risks and then recommend the right vaccinations, medications and practical advice for good health care while on holiday.

"Our new partnership with Phil Hoffmann Travel means more people will have access to our new expert travel health service that is conveniently located in 20 of our pharmacies, with more on the way," said National Pharmacies Chief Pharmacist Bec Rogers (pictured right). *KB*

New Head of MPS appointed at Sigma

SIGMA Healthcare has announced the appointment of Regina Cowie (pictured) as the new Head of MPS (Medication Packaging Systems), an important division of the company that provides medicines management to pharmacies, the aged care sector and other healthcare providers across Australia.

Cowie joins Sigma from FRED IT, and is also a pharmacy member of the Victorian Pharmacy Authority.

She stated she is "delighted to be taking up such an important role to oversee the packaging and distribution of medicines across vital Australian communities".

"I have a passion for improving the healthcare outcomes for patients, ensuring the highest standards of clinical governance are always maintained and driving operational excellence, so when this position arose at



MPS I eagerly embraced the opportunity to take on the role," Cowie said.

Renee Watson, Head of Retail and former Head of MPS, said Sigma was pleased to appoint Cowie to the role, saying: "It shows that Sigma sees great opportunity for expanding its MPS Connect business by further developing its technology and extending its capabilities to enhance its role of providing end-to-end medicine management."

Watson will now focus on leading the retail function for Amcal and DDS.

Illegal vapes seized

A **COORDINATED** crackdown by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and Queensland Government has resulted in a significant seizure of illegal vaping and tobacco products, including illicit vapes, vaping accessories and nicotine pouches worth more than \$3 million.

More than \$5.8 million of illegal cigarettes and loose tobacco were also seized.



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Dream It | Design It | Make It Happen

We design spaces which reflect the way you work, and create efficiencies throughout your pharmacy with particular emphasis on dispensary operations.

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PHARMACIUM

find out how we can help

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

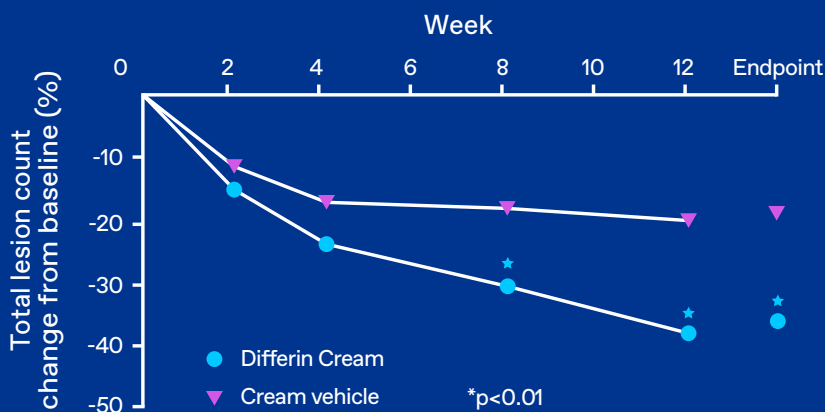
3 Restores

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

DO THINGS
DIFFERIN®

NEW

MAXimise your day.
Minimise your pain.

MAXOFEN[®]

Paracetamol 500mg & Ibuprofen 200mg



Combines the efficacy of paracetamol and ibuprofen to offer
DOUBLE ACTION PAIN RELIEF in a single, convenient capsule-shaped tablet

Available in 12 & 30 tablets



Always read the label. Use only as directed. Incorrect use could be harmful. M070725aS31.1
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