

Today's issue of PD

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

- Differin
- Fefol

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 four**.

Iron deficiency?

PREVENT and treat iron and folic acid deficiency with Fefol modified release capsules.

Learn more on **page five**.

FIP strengthens global network

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has launched a new FIP-UNESCO UNITWIN Centre for Excellence in the Eastern Mediterranean, taking pharmacy education, science and research in the region a significant step forward.

The centre will prioritise collaboration and leadership development, supporting context-sensitive competency-based education, digital transformation and embedding emergency preparedness in pharmacy education and science.

Peak bodies team up on prescriber submission

PHARMACY peak bodies have joined forces to recommend a model of pharmacist prescribing that prioritises patient access, safety and convenience while delivering potential savings of over \$600 million annually.

In a joint open submission to the Pharmacy Board of Australia, AdPha (Advanced Pharmacy Australia), the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) have proposed a framework that would allow pharmacists to prescribe medicines autonomously, within their scope of practice.

The Board announced in Sep that it had begun work to establish an endorsement for scheduled medicines for pharmacists, which when approved will support a consistent, safe and nationally coordinated approach to pharmacist prescribing (**PD** 18 Sep).

The model proposed by the peak bodies for endorsed pharmacist prescribing is: "autonomous prescribing where a health professional undertakes prescribing of any scheduled medicine within their individual, self-determined, documented and authorised scope of practice, based on completion of an accredited training course".

In addition, it will be "delivered in appropriate collaborative relationships with the patient and all other members of the healthcare team".

The submission, which the organisations argue should be adopted in full, would enable qualified pharmacists to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, sell,

supply or use Schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 medicines after completing an approved course.

The submission recognises the importance of collaborating with governments to ensure patients can access their PBS subsidies for medicines prescribed by endorsed pharmacists, removing financial barriers and improving equity in healthcare.

"By supporting pharmacist prescribing, this unified approach enhances professional accountability while expanding access to safe, effective treatment options - especially for patients in rural, regional, and underserved communities," the peak bodies said in a joint announcement.

"AdPha, the PSA and the Guild look forward to working with the Pharmacy Board, governments and other stakeholders to progress this important reform."

PSA National President Assoc Prof Fei Sim said pharmacists are already integral to delivering



accessible, high-quality healthcare across Australian communities, and a national endorsement for pharmacist prescribing is a logical and necessary progression that recognises their clinical expertise to meet evolving patient needs and system-wide demands.

"This reform will help address workforce shortages, improve access to medicines, and ensure patients receive timely care - especially in rural and regional areas," Assoc Prof Sim said.

Guild National President Professor Trent Twomey added the measure will reduce GP wait times and non-urgent visits to the emergency room, concluding "it will mean healthier Australian communities". KB

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NEW

MEDICHOICE
Ibuprofen 200mg LIQUIFAST: FOR FAST PAIN RELIEF
Mini liquid capsules

Manage pain in a mini.

M131025a521.0 Always read the label. Use only as directed. Incorrect use could be harmful.



Critics lament Drug Summit's missed opportunity

THE NSW Government has formally responded to the 2024 Drug Summit recommendations, saying it is building on its commitment to reform the state's whole-of-government approach to alcohol and other drug use, placing harm reduction and wellbeing at the forefront of policy.

In the response announced yesterday, there is support or in-principle support for 50 of 56 recommendations put forward in the Drug Summit report, which was released earlier this year (PD 04 Apr).

Among the stated commitments are an investigation into a medical defence for people using medically prescribed cannabis who are driving - at present, Tasmania and Victoria are the only jurisdictions in Australia that have a medicinal cannabis drug driving defence.

Critics have slammed the delay of action, with Unions NSW Secretary Mark Morey saying the solution was more straightforward - amend

the Road Transport Act to treat medicinal cannabis like any other prescription medication.

"We should focus on impairment, not presence," Morey said.

"Workers and their families can't wait for another expert working group while they're forced to choose between managing their medical conditions and paying their bills."

Emma Maiden, Uniting NSW.ACT's Director of Advocacy and External Relations, concurred: "In terms of an 'investigation into cannabis driving laws', we don't need another 'investigation' - we need the action already identified by the Cannabis Inquiry."

Of the response more broadly, Maiden said, "this weak response today is a win for bad politics over good policy".

The NSW Government also committed to a whole-of-government Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy, guiding investments and program priorities for the next 10 years and underpinned by a



harm minimisation approach.

In addition, it will reform the Early Drug Diversion Initiative to address restrictions relating to possession of multiple drugs, criminal history and threshold drug quantities.

The Royal Australian College of GPs has welcomed the NSW Government's support for many of the recommendations.

"This includes reforming the Early Drug Diversion Initiative, and ensuring life-saving naloxone, which can temporarily save the life of someone experiencing an opioid overdose, is made available in licensed venues across the state to include as part of their first-aid responses," said RACGP NSW and ACT Chair Dr Rebekah Hoffman. KB

Heatwaves worsen sleep apnoea

AUSTRALIAN researchers have revealed an increase in the number of people suffering with obstructive sleep apnoea during heatwaves.

The team analysed five years of sleep pattern data from almost 70,000 people across 17 European countries.

They matched each participant's location with local nightly temperatures to assess the impact of heatwaves and found that the risk of people suffering with moderate-to-severe OSA increased by 13% at the peak of a heatwave.

The study did not explore the exact mechanisms behind the link, but it is known that hot nights often disrupt sleep by making it lighter and more fragmented - which may become more common and severe with climate change.

Read the study [HERE](#).

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Dive into our latest podcast episode featuring **Kate Gunthorpe**, a pharmacist, prescriber, and advocate - "On Leading Pharmacy into the Future: From Full Scope to Change Management".

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Dispensary Corner

MELBOURNE scientists have blown open the mystery of how hydrogen is formed and used in the human gut - and it's nothing to be sniffed at.

In a study published in *Nature Microbiology*, researchers from Monash University and Hudson Institute of Medical Research discovered that hydrogen plays a bigger role in supporting healthy gut function than previously thought.

Hydrogen gas is naturally produced in the gut when bacteria ferment undigested carbohydrates from our diets.

Some of this gas is exhaled, some recycled by other gut bacteria, and the rest exits the body as flatulence.

The researchers found that hydrogen helps beneficial bacteria thrive in the gut and keeps digestion going.

"Most people release about a litre of gas per day and half of that is hydrogen," said first author, Dr Caitlin Welsh.

"But hydrogen is more than just the gas behind flatulence - it's a hidden driver of gut health.

"Our study shows hydrogen shapes the gut microbiome in surprising and varied ways."

The study also found that hydrogen production was disrupted in people with gut disorders, but it is unclear if this is a cause or consequence.

The researchers hope their work will inspire more studies that seek to expand fundamental knowledge of how our gut works, with the potential to design new treatments for gastrointestinal issues.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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

The ultimate barrier against chafing and sweat rash

Dermal Therapy's Chafing & Sweat Rash Prevention Cream is the ultimate triple-action formula, designed to provide a lubricating barrier, absorb sweat and protect against friction.

It delivers up to 48 hours of moisture protection for all skin types, helping to reduce redness, irritation, and discomfort, keeping your customers comfortable and protected all day.

RRP: \$14.99

Stockist enquiries: Contact 1300 555 597

Website: [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.



Mag-Sup powder - a better way to absorb magnesium

Mag-Sup powder is a high absorption magnesium supplement for use in magnesium deficiencies. It contains magnesium aspartate which has increased bioavailability compared to other forms of magnesium. Magnesium aspartate has better oral absorption than magnesium citrate, magnesium glycinate, magnesium chloride and magnesium oxide.

- High dose, once a day
- Rapidly absorbed
- Natural forest berry flavour
- Up to 300mg elemental magnesium per day
- Contains no artificial preservatives, colours or flavours

Available in 200g packs equivalent to 40 doses.

Supplier: Available from Symbion, Sigma, API & CH2. Contact your Clear Sales representative on 1800 640 043 for special deals.

RRP: \$21.57

Website: [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.



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

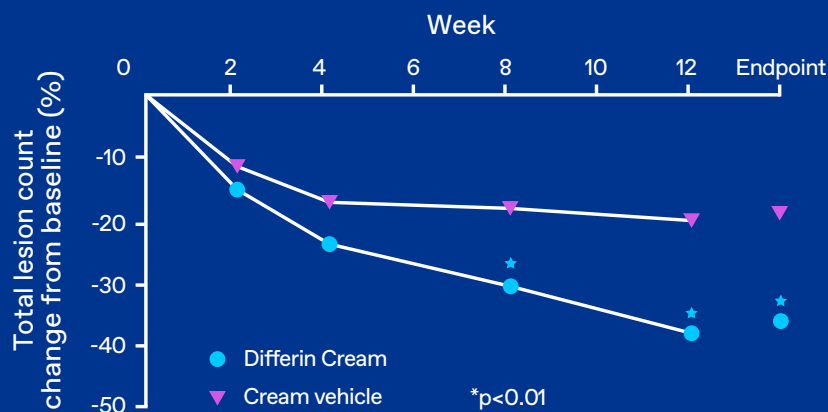
3 Restores

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

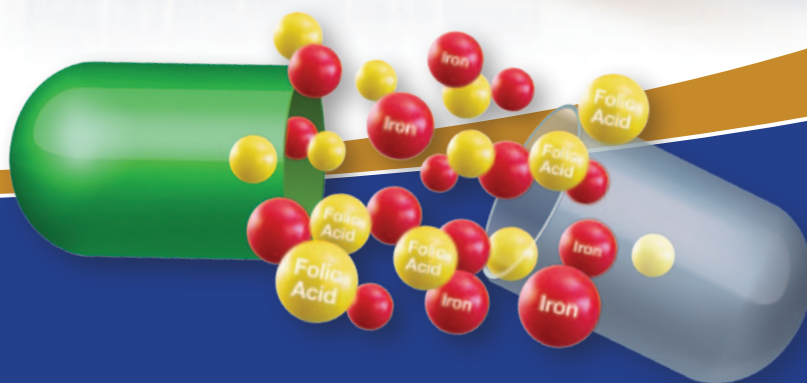
ASK YOUR PHARMACIST ABOUT THIS PRODUCT. ALWAYS FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS FOR USE.

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

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Iron Deficient?



**Your first-line treatment for
iron deficiency, as recommended by
Australian Therapeutic Guidelines*.**

Always read the label and follow the directions for use.

For use when iron deficiency has been diagnosed by your doctor and a therapeutic iron supplement is recommended.
*Oral iron Supplement (Aug 2022) In: Therapeutic Guidelines. Melbourne: Therapeutic Guidelines Limited.

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