

Today's issue of PD

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

- Independent Pharmacies Australia (IPA)
- Glucojel

Here for good

INDEPENDENT Pharmacies Australia is holding its 2025 Member Summit on the Gold Coast from 14-17 Oct.

The event features pharmacy leaders and speakers who will inspire, as well as three of Australia's biggest entertainment acts.

Learn more on **page five**.

All treat, no tricks

CUSTOMERS have a chance to win the ultimate Halloween treat haul - a year's supply of Glucojel products.

Stock up for the season ahead, and be sure to get your Spookojel POS and t-shirts now - learn more on **page six**.

Sigma appoints new CFO

SIGMA Healthcare has appointed Richard Murray as Chief Financial Officer (CFO), commencing 13 Oct 2025.

Murray brings over 30 years of experience with ASX-listed companies, most recently as CEO of Total Tools.

"I have admired the Chemist Warehouse story from afar, so to be joining Sigma at such a pivotal time is both exciting and energising," Murray enthused.

Safety starts from first dose

PHARMACIST peak bodies are marking World Patient Safety Day by highlighting initiatives around medicines safety for adolescents and children, as part of this year's theme of 'Safe care for every newborn and child'.

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has launched its fourth annual *World Patient Safety Day* series authored by its Medication Safety Leadership Committee.

The series covers issues such as oral liquid dosing; off-label prescribing; risks across preconception; pregnancy and breastfeeding; the importance of double-checking; and lived experiences that highlight the value of consumer involvement and research in paediatric care.

Toni Howell, AdPha Medication Safety Leadership Committee Chair, said every newborn and child deserves a healthy start to life.

"As clinicians, we must think about the risk of medication harm in our smallest patients - even when they are just a 'twinkle' - because preventable errors in medicines use can leave permanent scars.

"On World Patient Safety Day, we commit to patient safety from the start because newborns and young children are more susceptible to harm if care isn't specifically adapted to their age, size, health condition and context.

"This series highlights the important role pharmacists and pharmacy technicians play in safe paediatric care."

The series is available **HERE**.

AdPha has also highlighted its 'Don't Rush to Crush' guide to safely administering oral medicines, an essential for vulnerable patients, including children - see **HERE**.

MEANWHILE, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

Don't suffer the pain of toothache.

Available from Symbion, Sigma, API & CH2

Always read the label and follow the directions for use.

Oral-eze
DENTAL EMERGENCY
TOOTHACHE
MEDICATION

Benzocaine 7.5% w/v
Clove Bud Oil 19.0% v/v
Ethanol 18.8% v/v

Temporary relief from throbbing, inflamed toothaches due to the action of Benzocaine.

Complete medication kit with application topical application

5mL

For the temporary relief of pain from toothache.



(PSA) is urging all Australians to reflect on the importance of keeping children and adolescents safe from medicine-related harm.

PSA National President, Associate Professor Fei Sim, said medicine safety in children must remain front of mind for all health professionals, caregivers and policymakers, adding it is "not just a theme, but a responsibility we all share".

"World Patient Safety Day is a reminder that safe care begins at birth and continues throughout childhood," Assoc Prof Sim said.

"Every medicine prescribed, dispensed, or administered to a child is an opportunity to prevent harm and protect health."

She noted that pharmacists see first-hand the risks children face - from accidental poisoning to dosing errors, and highlighted the PSA's report *Medicine Safety: Child and Adolescent Care* (PD 31 Jan).

"By working together with parents, carers and the broader health system, we can make a real difference in reducing preventable harm," she concluded.

World Patient Safety Day is a World Health Organization initiative, and this year's theme of 'Safe care for every newborn and every child', with the slogan "Patient safety from the start!", recognises the vulnerability of this age group to risks and harm caused by unsafe care. **KB**

PSA urges free needle-free vax

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is urging states and territories to introduce free, needle-free influenza vaccines for children aged two to under five years, following the lead of Queensland and NSW.

PSA National President, Associate Professor Fei Sim, said vaccination coverage among young children remains "unacceptably low", with uptake in some jurisdictions below 20 percent.

"Too many children are missing out on flu vaccination, and parents consistently tell us that the fear of needles is a barrier," Assoc Prof Sim said.

"A nasal spray option changes that, and we know from overseas experience that uptake of vaccines improves dramatically," she pointed out.

"Pharmacists are ready to deliver these vaccines in every community, but we need every government to come on board," she concluded.

PSA Vaccination Ambassador Anna Theophilos said needle-free vaccines would "make a real difference for families" by taking away anxiety around needles, making it easier for families to protect kids.



Differin treats acne

with a potent retinoid: Adapalene.

Acne visibility improves after just 2 weeks.¹



Differin Acne Treatment Gel & Cream Available now over the counter

1. Lucky A et al. *Cutis* 2001; 68 (4 Suppl):34-40.
ASK YOUR PHARMACIST ABOUT THIS PRODUCT.
ALWAYS FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS FOR USE.
Galderma Australia Pty Ltd. 1 Denison St, North Sydney, Australia 2060. AU-DIF-2300001

Time to ditch SABA, says NAC

THE National Asthma Council Australia (NAC) has updated the Australian Asthma Handbook with important new recommendations, with a leading pharmacist flagging “challenging” conversations ahead for community pharmacists.

The updated guidelines encourage health professionals to stop prescribing or advising treatment with as-needed short-acting beta2 agonists (SABA) alone to manage asthma in adults and adolescents, and recommend anti-inflammatory-reliever-only therapy and maintenance-and-reliever therapy for adults and adolescents.

This represents a big shift for patients and health professionals, said Clinical Associate Professor Debbie Rigby, pharmacist and NAC Clinical Executive Lead.

“We’ve got a big problem with SABA - salbutamol - overuse and over-reliance in Australia and worldwide, and it’s been shown it only benefits the symptoms of asthma, as in the bronchoconstriction and the wheeze and the cough patients might get,” she told **Pharmacy Daily**.

“It does nothing for the underlying inflammation that exists in people’s lungs with asthma.”

She explained that when people rely on salbutamol alone, it increases their risk of severe exacerbations, and even death.

“So I think the biggest challenge for community pharmacists is to have that conversation with patients when they come into the pharmacy requesting some salbutamol over-the-counter,” she said.

“We’ve been using salbutamol for the last 50 years and people are very reliant on it.

“But we need to help patients understand that even though it



makes them feel better, it can actually do some harm, and overuse is a signal of poor asthma control, which carries increased health risks.

“So it will be a fundamental change for patients.”

Assoc Prof Rigby pointed out it is not about denying patients access to the drug, but helping them understand that there are better options for managing their asthma.

She suggested pharmacists recommend patients see their GP to get an assessment of their asthma, and ideally start on an anti-inflammatory reliever in the form of low-dose budesonide-formoterol, and take that as needed when any symptoms occur.

Those who experience frequent symptoms will need maintenance-and-reliever therapy, which they take daily as a regular dosing, and they take the same drugs - the same inhaler - as needed to relieve symptoms, she explained.

“Instead of reaching for separate puffers - a preventer and a reliever - the patient can use the one inhaler that prevents inflammation and also provides that immediate relief.

“So it’s just one inhaler that they have to carry around and get prescriptions for.”

The updated handbook is based on extensive research and review of national and international evidence conducted by an expert committee, and is available **HERE**. KB

Medicine
BioCeuticals



IBS affects 15% of the population

Join Mick Alexander's webinar to confidently apply probiotics in practice



Register now ⌚ 1 hour

CPD accredited



Scope in Focus

Professor Trent Twomey

WHAT'S good for patients is good for community pharmacy.

That's why I'm a passionate advocate for pharmacists being able to work to the full range of their training and experience.

The ability to consult, diagnose and treat patients will be a real game-changer for our profession and our patients.

Many pharmacists have already started to implement these changes; many more are considering it.

Across the country, we are seeing more state and territory governments recognise the value and importance of community pharmacy.

At the start of the month, NSW permanently expanded the range of services trained pharmacists can provide, and I anticipate more announcements shortly.

The conditions were chosen carefully - they represent the highest volume presentations to emergency departments that cause ambulance ramping, and the highest volume of presentations to General

Practice, which means waiting up to four weeks in some areas.

Those who have already begun offering services are reporting more job satisfaction, higher retention of pharmacy staff and improved patient satisfaction.

Now is the time to really start to consider how your patients and your practice can benefit.

I also hear questions from pharmacists across Australia at different stages of their scope journey.

So, in these columns, I'm going to break down how you can go about preparing your pharmacy, pharmacists and pharmacy assistants, and also how to engage with patients about these changes.

I'll point out where you can go for additional support, and relate my own experience doing the training, investing in infrastructure and technology, and treating patients.

Professor Trent Twomey is the National President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Send him your questions via scope@guild.org.au



12-14 March 2026
Gold Coast

Australasian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition

APP2026 registration open!

Register by 31 October and save up to **\$250**

Brought to you by

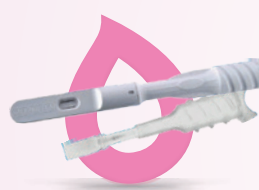


The Pharmacy Guild of Australia



World's first Saliva pregnancy test!

Salistick™
anywhere, anytime
No more peeing on a stick!



Distributed by

ParagonCare Pharmacy

ORDER NOW
FROM PARAGONCARE | CH2

OTC medicines 'are not sweets'

THE European Heads of Medicines Agencies has launched a new campaign - 'Medicines are not sweets' - targeting occasional users of over-the-counter medicines, urging them to read the information leaflet, follow the instructions, and consult a doctor if symptoms persist.

"These medicines are intended for mild health complaints such as pain, fever, or a cold," the agency stated.

"However, no medicine is without risk, and incorrect use can lead to unpleasant side effects or even addiction.

"That is why it is important - just as with any medicine - to read the patient information leaflet carefully and follow the instructions."

The 'Medicines are not sweets' campaign is a cross-border collaboration.

Pregnancy nausea takes toll

NEW Australian research has revealed the emotional and physical toll of extreme morning sickness, with more than half of affected women reporting they considered terminating their pregnancy, and nine in 10 saying they had considered not having more children.

Published in *PLOS One*, the national survey is a comprehensive investigation into the lived experience of hyperemesis gravidarum (HG) - a severe form of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy that is reported to affect 0.3-10.8% of pregnancies.

The findings highlight not only the debilitating nature of the condition but also the inconsistent effectiveness of commonly prescribed treatments.

Ondansetron, doxylamine and corticosteroids were perceived as the most effective medications, yet many women reported significant side effects, including constipation, sedation, and impaired cognition.

Less than 20% of those surveyed found ginger effective, and less than 40% considered pyridoxine at least moderately effective.

Lead author Associate Professor Luke Grzeskowiak, a pharmacist and researcher from Flinders University, said that the findings underscore the urgent need for more compassionate, evidence-based care for pregnant women experiencing HG.

"Hyperemesis gravidarum is not just morning sickness - it's a serious condition that can have devastating consequences for women's mental health, relationships, and decisions about future pregnancies," he said.

"Our study shows that many women are not getting the support or relief they need, and that's something we must urgently address," he said.

"We need better evidence to guide treatment decisions and ensure women are supported to make informed choices."

Read the study [HERE](#). KB

Healthcare supply chain boost in SA

DHL Supply Chain Australia has announced the ground breaking of its state-of-the-art transport and warehousing facility in Edinburgh Park, South Australia, which is due for completion in late 2026.

With 20,000m² of additional warehouse and office space, the facility will feature ambient, temperature-controlled, and cold chain storage options to support its life sciences and healthcare network, as well as retail and consumer sectors.

The carbon-neutral warehouse comprises sustainable elements such as EV charging for DHL's expanding electric truck and van fleet, a rooftop solar array, LED lighting, a solar hot water system, and an intelligent building management system to minimise power usage.

Proudly produced by



Dive into our latest podcast episode featuring **Jala Moushi**, an Education Pharmacist and National Intern Training Coordinator - "From pharmacy intern to a creative leader; A journey of wellness and resilience".

Proudly brought to you by



YOUR PHARMACY CAREER PODCAST



Listen on your favourite Podcast app



Dispensary Corner

FANCY some dermatology with a side of dessert?

In a rare crossover between cruise and pharmacy, Carnival Cruise Line has unveiled its latest innovation: sunscreen-flavoured ice cream.

The cruise line collaborated with Van Leeuwen ice cream company to come up with the eyebrow-raising flavour, in a bid to tackle what Carnival calls 'end-of-summer scaries' or "the bittersweet feeling when the season of sunshine and carefree moments winds down".

Despite the name of the ice cream, the ingredient list is perfectly safe, and features cream, coconut cream, milk, cane sugar, egg yolks, cocoa butter, natural flavours, vanilla extract and sea salt.

Although the unusual treat won't be available for public purchase initially, Carnival and Van Leeuwen are inviting fans to share their reactions to the new ice cream online.

"If the buzz is big enough, a limited-time run of the flavour could be on the horizon," Carnival teased.

So, if you have ever wondered what your sunscreen tastes like, you may soon get the chance to find out...



PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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

APOHEALTH's Dry Eye Relief and Dry Eye Relief Forte

APOHEALTH's Dry Eye Relief and Dry Eye Relief Forte help lubricate the surface of eyes that are severely dry, irritated and tired, due to external factors.

The products also moisturise and provide relief of symptoms associated with dry eyes, and are suitable for users of all types of contact lenses.

Active ingredients include Sodium Hyaluronate 1 mg/mL & 2 mg/mL.

Stockist enquiries: Call 1800 276 839 or contact your Vidacorp OTC territory manager.

RRP: AUD \$23.99

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

Always read the label and follow the directions for use.



Hartley's Gripe Water



Hartley's Gripe Water is a natural blend of herbal ingredients including dill seed oil, peppermint oil, chamomile and coriander oil. These herbs have been used safely in commercial infant preparations for many years.

The product helps reduce the occurrence of excess intestinal wind and gas in infants, and helps relieve the symptoms of infant colic. It does not contain artificial sweeteners.

Supplier: Available from Symbion, Sigma, API & CH2.

Stockist enquiries: Contact your Clear Sales representative on 1800 640 043 for special deals.

RRP: \$11.27 - 200ml bottle.

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

Member Summit 2025

HERE FOR GOOD

14-17 October | RACV Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast, QLD

EXCLUSIVE MEMBER PACKAGE

\$500 (ALL-INCLUSIVE, ENDS 11 SEPT)

IPA MEMBERS

JOIN US FOR THE BIGGEST AND MOST
TRANSFORMATIONAL WEEK ON THE GOLD COAST.



Steve Kastrinakis
Managing Director, IPA
Community First



Dennis Bastas
Chairman & CEO, DBG Health
Shared Success



Kos Sclavos
Chief Pharmacist, DBG Health
Full-Scope Future



Steve Sammartino
AI & Tech Expert, Author
Decoding the Future
Summit MC



Gilbert Enoka
New Zealand All Blacks
Team Manager
Becoming unstoppable



Trent Twomey
National President
Pharmacy Guild of Australia
Trust. Care. Community.

FEATURING 3 OF AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST ENTERTAINMENT ACTS



Sooshi Mango
15 Oct



Sneaky Sound System
16 Oct



Havana Brown
16 Oct

IPA MEMBERS
**REGISTER
NOW**





GLUCOJEL™

The Original Pharmacy Jelly Bean



WIN THE ULTIMATE HALLOWEEN HAUL, A YEAR'S WORTH OF GLUCOJEL!*

We're back with another competition for your customers! Just by purchasing their favourite pack and scanning the QR code, they can win a year's worth of Australia's favourite jelly beans and bears!

Stock up for the spooky season today with Glucogel's exclusive events deal!

CAPTURE ADDITIONAL PURCHASES BY OFF-LOCATING.

Order your free POS today! Visit goldx.com.au/glucogel



DUMP BIN



CLIP STRIPS



COUNTER UNIT



FLOOR STAND



FLOOR DECAL



COUNTER MAT



SHELF STRIP



T-SHIRTS



WOBBLER



**SPOOKOJEL
WOBBLER**



**SPOOKOJEL
A4 POSTERS**