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Nationally coordinated prescribing closer

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia announced yesterday that it has begun work to establish an endorsement for scheduled medicines for pharmacists, and when approved will support a consistent, safe and nationally coordinated approach to pharmacist prescribing.

This will enable appropriately trained prescribing pharmacists to have their registration endorsed by the Board as being "qualified to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, sell, supply and/or use scheduled medicines".

The endorsement was requested by health ministers, and aims to standardise the qualifications required by pharmacists who prescribe scheduled medicines in accordance with authorisations determined by each state and territory, as set out in local medicines and poisons legislation.

"This approach will enhance public protection and facilitate workforce mobility - both core objectives of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory," the Board stated.

The Board will establish an expert advisory committee on pharmacist



prescribing; develop a registration standard; engage with a broad range of stakeholders; and publish a consultation paper to gain broader feedback.

The Board is also funding the Australian Pharmacy Council's review of the accreditation standards for pharmacist prescriber education programs, designed to enable greater national consistency (PD 11 Sep).

The news has been welcomed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, with National President Professor Trent Twomey describing it as a "pivotal step for patients and the community pharmacy profession, with the potential to unlock consistent, safe and accessible care".

"An endorsement framework is critical to ensuring community pharmacists can deliver services to the full extent of their training,

skills, knowledge and experience," Professor Twomey said.

"We know community pharmacists are already delivering these services successfully in specific states - this enables better planning, mobility and clarity for practitioners."

Professor Twomey said the Guild is looking forward to working with the Board as part of the process, reflecting the evolving role of pharmacists as prescribers.

"With appropriate training and governance, pharmacist prescribing will mean more patients are able to access convenient, local care for everyday health conditions, reducing pressure on GPs and emergency departments," Professor Twomey said.

"Ultimately it will lead to healthier communities," he concluded. KB

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature, plus full pages from:

- Dispense Assist
- Maxofen



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DISPENSE Assist is a low-cost staffing solution with dispensary technicians available 24/7, at rates from as low as \$8.94 per hour, for services that include compounding, DAAs and any other required tasks - see [p5](#).

Maximise your day

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

Maxofen is available in packs of 12 and 30 tablets.

See details on [page six](#).

No heart benefit from Pneumovax

THE Pneumovax pneumococcal vaccine does not reduce the risk of heart attack or stroke in older adults, Australian research has found.

Previous animal studies and human data suggested that it might help prevent clogged arteries, which can cause heart attacks and strokes.

However, the trial in almost 5,000 people aged 55 to 60 across six Australian centres found that there was no significant difference in the rates of fatal and non-fatal heart attack and stroke over seven years in people taking the vaccine or a placebo.

However, the authors pointed out the study was too small to rule out a benefit altogether, and the results should be confirmed with larger trials.

Read the study [HERE](#).

Framework to support safer transitions of care

THE Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has released a *Medication Management at Transitions of Care Stewardship Framework* to support safe and high-quality medication management at transitions of care.

Designed for healthcare professionals working in the acute, primary or aged care sectors, the framework aims to improve communication between the different settings, and ultimately reduce the risk of medication-related harm during transitions of care.

"Medication management at transitions of care is a period of high risk for medication errors and miscommunication, which can lead to harm," the Commission stated, pointing out that more than 50% of medication errors occur around transition of care.

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has welcomed the release of the framework, calling for its immediate implementation across

all Australian hospitals and health services.

Katie Phillips, Chair of AdPha's Transitions of Care and Primary Care Leadership Committee and member of the expert project advisory group overseeing development of the framework, said it highlights the need for "robust coordination" across all care settings, with pharmacists playing a key role.

"Transitions of care are one of the riskiest points for medication errors and miscommunication - and too often, that risk leads to patient harm," Phillips said.

"This new Stewardship Framework is a long-awaited and very welcome step.

"It provides a robust, practical



guide that organisations can adapt to their local needs, and it shines a national spotlight on an area of patient care where pharmacists can make a profound difference."

The framework responds to the World Health Organization's Global Patient Safety Challenge - Medication Without Harm, which prioritises reducing medicine-related harm and preventable readmissions.

Access the framework [HERE](#). **KB**

Emma McBride to open Medicines Management 2025

WITH just over two months until Medicines Management 2025 (MM2025) kicks off in Melbourne, Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has unveiled the full conference program, including opening of proceedings by Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emma McBride.

AdPha Vice President Dr Kate O'Hara said it is "particularly meaningful" to have McBride officiate this year's opening.

"As a hospital pharmacist herself and a long-time AdPha member, the Hon Emma McBride embodies the unique bridge between

clinical practice and health leadership," Dr O'Hara said.

"Her voice on mental health and regional health equity is more important than ever, and we are proud to welcome her to the MM2025 stage."

Headlined by keynote speakers Dr Sandro Demaio, Joel Pearson and Dr Jana Pittman, the MM2025 program features over 100 sessions, workshops and presentations, and more than 340 posters.

Dr O'Hara said the program for AdPha's 49th national conference promises to be "one of the strongest in its history".

"From world-class keynote speakers to cutting-edge science and practical innovations, MM2025 will showcase the best of pharmacy leadership, research and practice.

"We're also particularly proud to offer over 200 opportunities to first-time presenters.

"Medicines Management is where it all happens - emerging researchers make their mark, established leaders push the boundaries of innovation and the future of advanced pharmacy takes shape," Dr O'Hara added.

Earlybird registrations close Thu 02 Oct - more details [HERE](#).

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Editor's Choice: Bondi Sands turns skincare sunny with new range

AUSTRALIAN brand Bondi Sands has launched a new range called Sunny, which it describes as "skin-first suncare", featuring ingredients such as Vitamin E and Australian hibiscus while offering 50+ UVA and UVB protection.

Products in the collection include Sunny Kiss lip balm (RRP \$9.95), Sunny Drops face serum (RRP \$24.95) and Sunny Cream face lotion (RRP \$24.95), which all feature 'Complexion Protection' - a combination of lightweight ingredients that are oil-free, non-comedogenic, dermatologically tested and suitable for sensitive skin.

There is also Sunny Milk body

serum, which offers up to four hours' water resistance.

"Through our R&D we found that a significant barrier to wearing daily SPF is the texture and a fear of clogging pores and causing breakouts," said Sarah Morrison, Director of Brand and Content at Bondi Sands.

"We also found that consumers are seeking a premium product but are being priced out of what's currently available in market.

"The Sunny range directly addresses these concerns and embodies our commitment to advancing sun protection by offering our consumers an affordable product that they can trust and feel confident using."



Inika keeps it natural



INIKA Organic is an Australian beauty brand offering sustainable make-up products infused with skincare ingredients, featuring two hero products: the Serum Foundation and Radiant Glow.

The lightweight Serum Foundation is formulated with botanical actives such as ceramide, baobab seed, and sunflower seed to boost luminosity, repair and revitalise skin.

Meanwhile, Radiant Glow is a multitasking primer, illuminator and moisturiser, that can be worn alone or before makeup to create a smooth canvas for foundation.

Other products in the range include the Liquid Foundation with argan and avocado oils, and the Pure Perfection Primer.

"Inika Organic is committed to pushing the boundaries of what pure beauty can be," said Polly Roderick, Inika Organic's Global Senior Brand Manager.

"These skincare/makeup hybrids are designed to simplify routines, amplify skin health and give you that effortless glow, all without compromise," she said.

Gentle on the skin

BIODERMA is launching the Cicabio Cleansing Balm (RRP \$31.99), an ultra-nourishing cleanser featuring lipid-replenishing ingredients to strengthen the skin and protect the skin barrier.

These include shea oil, squalane, sunflower seed oil, glycerin and biomimetic sugar, while Antalgicine patented technology calms any pain or irritation.



MOR releases indulgent collection for spring



MELBOURNE body and home brand MOR has this month released several luxurious new fragrances in its Emporium Classics

Blanc Body Collection: Primavera Fig, Peach Delight, Creme Caramel and Italian Pear.

Each fragrance is available in several products including a hand and body wash (RRP \$32.95), body lotion (RRP \$34.95) and hand cream (RRP \$24.95).

The soothing hand cream features a blend of cacao seed and shea butter to deliver intense hydration, while sesame seed oil and glycerin moisturise and niacinamide improves skin suppleness.

Meanwhile, the deeply moisturising body lotion is formulated with shea butter and jojoba oil to repair and nourish, and the body wash is crafted with glycerin and ceramides to cleanse and hydrate.

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Beauty & Wellness
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Dispensary Corner

PUMPKIN spice lattes - a popular spooky season treat - give drinkers a sugar hit bigger than a Halloween candy stash, causing nutritionists concern.

First launched by Starbucks in 2003 and available seasonally in Sep and Oct, it turns out the golden drinks are packed with more sugar than two Krispy Kreme Original Glaze donuts.

Nutritionist Alison Bladh, who has teamed up with Buzz Bingo to raise awareness of the issue, said the drinks should be treated as an occasional luxury rather than a daily habit.

"When it's marketed as part of a cosy morning routine, people stop questioning it and start treating a sugar-loaded drink as an everyday coffee," Bladh said.

"Because they're quick to drink, they don't fill you up and contain more sugar than a can of cola, so it's easy to consume excessive amounts without thinking."

Those who can't resist the lure of pumpkin spice are advised to sip it late morning with food, rather than on an empty stomach or in the evening.

This is because glucose tolerance is lowest later in the day, Bladh said, causing sugar spikes to last longer, leading to fat storage and inflammation.

Alternatively, latte lovers can save their health (and dollars) by trying a homemade recipe.



Oral GLP-1 safe and effective



ORAL glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist (GLP-1RA) orforglipron has demonstrated meaningful weight loss and cardiometabolic improvements in patients without diabetes, according to clinical trial findings presented yesterday at the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) Annual Meeting 2025 in Vienna.

The Eli Lilly drug was previously reported to be effective in patients with diabetes (**PD** 23 Jun), and as an oral alternative to the injectable forms of GLP-1RA, such as Ozempic and Mounjaro, may be preferred by patients.

The trial included over 3,000 people with obesity, or overweight with a weight-related medical problem, who did not have diabetes.

Participants were allocated to receive one of three daily doses of the drug (6mg, 12mg and 36mg) or placebo, and unusually, the drug was given as an adjunct to exercise and a balanced, healthy diet rather than a reduced-calorie diet.

All three doses of the drug were effective for weight loss at 72 weeks compared with placebo, with those on the highest dose losing the most (an average of 12.4kg, or 12.4% of body weight) and those on the lowest dose

losing an average of 8kg (or 7.8% body weight).

Additionally, among the 1,000 participants who had prediabetes at the start of the study, up to 91% of those taking the medication achieved near-normal blood sugar levels, compared with 42% of those taking placebo.

The most commonly reported adverse events were gastrointestinal-related - nausea, constipation, diarrhoea and vomiting - and generally mild-to-moderate in severity.

"People living with obesity have broad and varied needs - whether it's improving weight, A1C, lipids, blood pressure, or other health markers that primary care physicians routinely address with their patients," said Dr Kenneth Custer, President of Lilly Cardiometabolic Health.

"We're encouraged to see orforglipron improve many of these areas in [the trial]."

"As a convenient, once-daily pill that can be scaled globally, orforglipron could be ideally suited for early adoption in primary care, where proactive intervention has the potential to lead to meaningful, long-term health improvements."

The findings have also been published in the *NEJM* **HERE**. **KB**

Know when to say 'no'

EDUCATION pharmacist Jala Moushi, who leads the Chemist Warehouse national intern program, has said her ability to empathise with interns stems from her own lived experience of early-career uncertainty.

In the latest episode of the *Your Pharmacy Career Podcast*, Moushi shared her unique path in pharmacy in an inspiring and heartfelt conversation with host Krysti-Lee Patterson.

Moushi's pharmacy career began as an intern at a major Melbourne hospital, whereafter her combined pharmacy and commerce degree from Monash led her to managing a community pharmacy during the height of the COVID pandemic.

Being thrown in the deep end taught her early in her career the importance of taking care of herself and prioritising her own wellbeing.

She also places high value on creativity and curiosity, and speaks passionately about writing and her family chocolate business.

Despite some difficult times, Moushi said she has always been very clear on knowing when to say no.

"If an opportunity that has come my way hasn't aligned with my values or what I envision for my future path, saying 'no' has actually been one of my easiest decisions."

"And I guess I may not have always known exactly what I wanted, but I've been pretty clear on what I haven't wanted," she said.

Listen to the podcast **HERE**.



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