

## Today's issue of PD

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

- Differin
- Glucojel

## Retinoid action

**DIFFERIN** Acne Treatment contains the potent retinoid Adapalene to treat and prevent acne and restore the skin's natural texture and tone.

It is the first and only acne-fighting retinoid available over the counter.

See details on **page four**.

## All treats, no tricks

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

Make sure your shelves are fully stocked with this popular product - learn more on **p5**.

## Leqembi approved for early Alzheimer's

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved the registration of Leqembi (lecanemab) for use as an amyloid-lowering therapy in adult patients for the treatment of mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease and early Alzheimer's disease that are apolipoprotein E ε4 (APOE4) non-carriers or heterozygotes.

The move reverses the TGA's earlier decisions against registering the drug over concerns about efficacy versus safety risks (**PD** 04 Mar), and has been welcomed by dementia advocates.

"Access to emerging treatments

introduces a new therapeutic era for Alzheimer's disease, the most common cause of dementia in our society," said Professor Christopher Rowe, neurologist and Director of the Australian Dementia Network.

"The registration gives clinicians and patients wider choice of treatment and will bring with it the benefits of competition.

"While this form of treatment is restricted to people in the earliest stages of Alzheimer's disease who are otherwise fit and well, it is an exciting step on the road to effective treatments for dementia," he concluded.

## Wesfarmers moves into menopause

**PRICELINE** Pharmacy has launched Anything Menopause, an initiative designed to provide women with accessible, informed advice and care around menopause in stores throughout the country.

Every Priceline Pharmacy will have at least one pharmacist or pharmacy assistant trained to deliver menopause support, thanks to accredited menopause education developed in partnership with Jean Hailes for Women's Health.

Women will be able to receive personalised advice in the privacy of a consult room and curated product bays for easy access to symptom-specific solutions.

In addition, women can access SiSU Health Station health checks, which now include menopause-specific health messages, addressing risks like cardiovascular disease, which increases as oestrogen levels drop.

At home, a dedicated online portal provides women and their support networks with educational resources, product guidance and

tools for managing symptoms.

The Priceline Pharmacy offerings are part of a broader menopause program implemented by Wesfarmers Health, which also includes expanded GP support through InstantScripts telehealth consultations.

When a pharmacist identifies that a woman needs to be referred, or would benefit from a conversation or consultation with a GP, they will ask the woman if she has a doctor she can talk to, or point her to the InstantScripts menopause consultation service.

"Despite being a major health transition impacting half the global population, menopause is still shrouded in silence, stigma and lack of information or misinformation," said Mel Gannon, Priceline's Head of Pharmacy Services.

"We're breaking down barriers by giving our teams the training and tools to provide trusted, personalised support in store and online - it's about ensuring women feel seen, heard and helped at




every stage," she said.

Dr Sarah White, CEO of Jean Hailes for Women's Health, said the organisation is pleased to partner with Priceline Pharmacy to deliver that information to women in their communities.

"Jean Hailes has led menopause education in Australia for more than 30 years, and our partnership with Priceline Pharmacy will ensure this information reaches millions more women as they enter and navigate menopause." **KB**

**Pictured:** Edward Tanzil, Pharmacist in Charge at Park St Priceline, Sydney.

## Expanded pharmacist care for Tasmania

**THE** Tasmanian Government announced yesterday it will expand the role of community pharmacists, enabling them to provide more accessible care, as promised prior to the election in Jul (**PD** 17 Jun).

Pharmacists who undertake post-graduate training will be able to provide treatment for a broader range of common health conditions, including ear infections, reflux, rhinitis, shingles, eczema and wound care.

Tasmanian pharmacists can currently treat urinary tract infections and resupply hormonal contraception for women.

From Dec, appropriately credentialed pharmacists will also be able to initiate women's hormonal contraception.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Tasmanian President Joanne Gross welcomed the announcement as a "significant step toward improving access to timely, safe and accessible healthcare across the state", declaring it "a win for Tasmanians".

"Expanding the scope of pharmacists means more people will be able to access the care they need, when and where they need it," Gross said.

## Detachable Applicator

Treat difficult to reach areas.



**FREEZES IN SECONDS**

Always read the label and follow the directions for use.



**Duofilm**  
by Dr.Yglo®

### RG specialty to benefit pharmacy - RIPAA

**RURAL** Generalists (RG) will now be formally recognised as a specialist medical field within general practice in the Australian healthcare system, following an announcement by the Minister for Health and Ageing, Mark Butler, on the weekend.

General practitioners with an approved Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of GPs or Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine will be able to apply for the specialist RG registration.

The recognition is a positive development for rural healthcare and has the potential to benefit rural pharmacy as well, according to the Rural and Isolated Pharmacists Association of Australia (RIPAA).

"By providing a clearer and more attractive career pathway, the RG specialty may encourage more doctors to commit to rural practice, helping to address longstanding medical workforce shortages in these communities," said a spokesperson for RIPAA.

"For rural pharmacists, an increase in full-time rural doctors - including rural generalists -

could enhance collaboration and integration of care, allowing pharmacists to work more closely with medical practitioners to optimise patient outcomes."

However, RIPAA warned that it is critical to continue developing the pharmacy workforce and innovating roles such as rural pharmacist practitioners with expanded clinical and prescribing responsibilities, to complement medical services and ensure comprehensive healthcare access.

"Ultimately, the growth of the RG specialty is a welcome step that, combined with advancements in rural pharmacy, can strengthen healthcare delivery in rural and remote communities," they concluded.

RGs undergo a year of additional training in emergency medicine and a selection of disciplines needed in rural communities and hospitals, such as child health, mental health, palliative care, surgery and obstetrics.

The RACGP will now work with the Australian Medical Council to determine a process where RG Fellowship qualifications can be accredited.

### "Sustained investment needed"

**ON WORLD** Pharmacists Day yesterday, Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) celebrated the evolving role of pharmacists to ensure safe, cost-effective and accessible care, while calling for sustained investment in the hospital pharmacy workforce.

Speaking recently at the FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, AdPha President Assoc Prof Tom Simpson said AdPha is committed to supporting the individual pharmacist while advancing the profession as a whole.

"One cannot succeed without the other," Assoc Prof Simpson said.

"Together they create a cycle of personal growth and collective community, which is essential to advance pharmacy practice and deliver on our mission."

With several states and territories grappling with critical workforce shortages, Assoc Prof Simpson used the occasion to reiterate AdPha's call for sustained investment in the hospital pharmacy workforce, noting that hospital pharmacists and technicians are crucial to patient safety.

"Hospital pharmacy shortages are real, and patients will continue to suffer if governments fail to act.

"The advanced pharmacy scope of practice in acute care and adjacent settings has grown dramatically with more complex patients, new therapies and digital health systems.

"Workforce agreements must



reflect this reality by ensuring safe staffing levels, retention and sustainability," he said.

Assoc Prof Simpson called on both the community and the government to think of pharmacists when they think of healthcare.

"Pharmacy without the pharmacist is a risk to health - governments must step up now to secure this workforce for the future," he concluded.

Read the full address [HERE](#).

The Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) also joined the celebrations, recognising the essential role pharmacists play in delivering safe, accessible, and high-quality healthcare across Australia.

"APC is committed to supporting the advancement of the workforce and collaborating across all sectors of the profession to address challenges," said a Council spokesperson.

"Whether managing chronic conditions in community pharmacies, educating future pharmacists, or contributing to national registration assessments, pharmacists make a meaningful impact every day." KB

### PA wins ACT school apprentice prize

A **CANBERRA** Pharmacy Assistant has become the first person from the community pharmacy sector to be awarded the 2025 ACT Australian School-based Apprentice (ASBA) of the Year.

Kaydence Storm (pictured), a year 12 student at Mary MacKillop College in Canberra, is completing a Certificate II in Community Pharmacy through the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

She worked on her ASBA two days a week throughout years 11 and 12, with one day at Lanyon Pharmacy in Canberra, and another at the Canberra Institute of Technology.

"I think health is really important, and doing my apprenticeship has been a great way to get into the health



industry, other than the usual route of university," Storm said.

The award is presented to a student who is undertaking a Certificate II or above as an ASBA, and recognises the student's commitment to their formal studies at school and in the workplace.

Storm will represent the ACT at the Australian Training Awards in Darwin on 05 Dec.

**1800 429 829**  
[info@ravensrecruitment.com.au](mailto:info@ravensrecruitment.com.au)  
[www.ravensrecruitment.com.au](http://www.ravensrecruitment.com.au)

**Pharmacist in Charge**  
 Northern Rivers, NSW. (Job #48210)

- \$58/hr + flexible full or part-time hours.
- Live and work in a scenic village less than 20 mins from Ballina.
- Join a high-performing, friendly team in a supportive environment.

Balance lifestyle and pharmacy career near Ballina, Byron Bay & Lennox Head.

[...see more info](#)





## Dispensary Corner

**IS IT** time to call time on sugary fizzy drinks?

Having already been linked to diabetes, obesity, dementia and dental problems, new research conducted in Germany has found a link between soft drink consumption and increased risk of developing depression.

The link was put down to effects on the gut microbiome, where soft drinks appeared to raise levels of Eggerthella, a type of gut bacteria found to be more abundant in people with depression.

The study included around 400 people with major depressive disorder and 500 people without.

Participants were surveyed about mental health symptoms and soft drink intake, and also collected stool samples.

Soft drink intake predicted the diagnosis of depression, and the researchers also found an abundance of Eggerthella in women with depression, though not in men.

Eggerthella has been shown in mice to deplete tryptophan, an amino acid that's needed to produce the 'feel-good' hormone, serotonin.

"These findings underscore the role of diet in depression, and highlight the gut microbiome as a key mediator," said Dr Sharmili Edwin Thanarajah, of University Hospital Frankfurt.

The bad news for those who want to switch out sugary drinks for artificially sweetened ones is that they also disrupt the gut microbiome, with the authors suggesting sticking to water.

## PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### New MediChoice OSTEO-CAPS (Paracetamol 665mg) for osteoarthritis pain relief

MediChoice OSTEO-CAPS is a new, effective solution for managing osteoarthritis pain and discomfort.

Available in bi-layer tablets (96-pack) from Nova Pharmaceuticals, OSTEO-CAPS is a trusted option complementing the MediChoice range, including Paracetamol Rapids, Ibuprofen 400mg, and cold and flu products.

Offering effectiveness and affordability, it is a smart dispensary choice.

Always read the label and follow directions. Incorrect use may be harmful.

RRP: AUD\$4.99

Stockist enquiries: [orders@novapharm.com.au](mailto:orders@novapharm.com.au)

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



### Sonictec: One swab, one test, five answers in 15 mins - at home

Sonictec introduces Australia's first 5-in-1 rapid antigen test, a revolutionary at-home diagnostic solution that detects five of the most common respiratory viruses simultaneously from a single swab:

**Influenza A | Influenza B | COVID-19 | Adenovirus (ADV) | RSV**



- **High accuracy:** Sensitivity 96.77% - 99.99%, specificity >99.99%
- **Rapid results:** Clear outcome in just 15 minutes
- **Comprehensive detection:** Five viruses, one test - no need for multiple kits or lab referrals
- **Easy to use:** Designed for safe and simple self-testing at home

RRP: \$10.95 (1 test), \$19.95 (2 tests), \$49.95 (5 tests)

Stockist enquiries: Contact (03) 7073 2748 or email [sheena@melbournebrands.com](mailto:sheena@melbournebrands.com)

Website: [CLICK HERE](#) for detailed product information, instructions and health guidelines.

# Differin treats acne

with a potent retinoid: Adapalene.

Differin is the first (and only)<sup>1</sup> acne fighting retinoid available over the counter.

Adapalene works in three ways:<sup>2,3</sup>

## 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

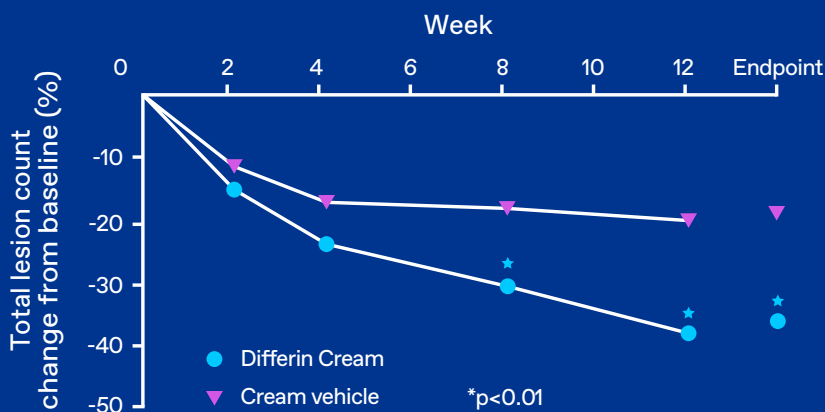
## 3 Restores

your skin's natural texture and tone

Acne visibly improves after just 2 weeks.<sup>4</sup>



Improvement in total lesion count with Differin Cream vs vehicle observed from 2 weeks.<sup>4,5</sup>



Differin Cream is clinically proven to:

- Reduce visible signs of acne within 2 weeks
- Shows significant reduction within 12 weeks ( $p < 0.01$ )<sup>4</sup>

In a meta-analysis of 5 pivotal studies<sup>5</sup>, 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%) cream<sup>5</sup>

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®**



**YOUR CUSTOMERS CAN WIN THE  
ULTIMATE HALLOWEEN HAUL,  
A YEAR'S WORTH OF GLUCOJEL!\***

Order through your wholesaler today  
to stock your shelves!

Support the bean that supports Australian pharmacies.  
Visit **[goldx.com.au/glucojel](https://goldx.com.au/glucojel)** for more info.



**GLUCOJEL™**

The Original Pharmacy Jelly Bean

\*T&C's apply

