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## Today's issue of PD

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

- Crampeze
- Fefol
- Glucojel

## Ease cramps

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## Better absorption

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## Nurses call for pharmacist-like vax funding

THE Australian College of Nursing (ACN) is urging the Federal Government to give nurses a greater role in vaccination to help address declining coverage amid record-high influenza rates and the circulation of vaccine-preventable diseases.

The peak body is calling for the establishment of a Nurse Payment Administrator to manage payments to nurses for administering vaccines in community settings outside of the MBS system, along similar lines to the Pharmacy Programs Administrator.

This will see nurses, including self-employed nurses, receive the same payments pharmacists get for delivering vaccines, and pharmacies that employ nurses will be remunerated accordingly.

ACN CEO Adjunct Professor Kathryn Zeitz said there are many reasons why vaccination rates are sliding, and it is important to make it as easy as possible for people to get their shots "for their own

health and for others".

"Nurses deliver more vaccines than any other healthcare professional, yet most of that work is unfunded and happens inside GP clinics," Professor Zeitz said.

The ACN is urging the Federal Government to also support nurses in running community-based clinics - in libraries, youth centres, and high-traffic locations such as childcare centres - as well as seniors centres, Men's Sheds and bowling clubs to provide increased access to seniors.

"Pharmacists are doing their fair share with pharmacy-delivered vaccinations, which is really fantastic to see," ACN chief nursing officer Frances Rice told *Pharmacy Daily*.

"But we think if we can fund nurses in a different way, then we will be able to reach some of those vulnerable populations, maybe offer appointments outside of standard hours for parents needing access to get their kids caught up,



or to get some of those seniors who we know are part of a growing group of undervaccinated people as well."

Rice said that nurse vaccination services are needed everywhere, but particularly in rural and remote locations where access to healthcare is already challenged by workforce shortages.

"We need to think differently about how we provide vaccinations in those in those settings," she said.

"We know that then nurses working in those locations can do education and help people with their vaccine hesitancy, but also increase that access." *KB*

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

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## Novel wound gel

**AUSTRALIAN** pharmaceutical company Phebra has launched Laceraine, a novel topical anaesthetic gel for open lacerations that was developed and manufactured in Australia.

A combination of lidocaine, tetracaine and adrenaline, the gel is used in frontline health settings across the community, including hospitals, urgent care clinics and general practice.

Phebra CEO Andre Vlok said the development of Laceraine demonstrates the company's long-standing commitment to strengthening Australia's sovereign capability in essential medicines.

"We're extremely proud to be adding Laceraine to Phebra's portfolio of Australian-made medicines to address an unmet need for healthcare professionals and their patients," Vlok said.

## Peptides in TGA's sights

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued a safety advisory in response to concerns about risks associated with the rise in the import, supply, compounding and advertising of unapproved peptide products.

Peptides are short chains of amino acids that can mimic or stimulate natural biological processes, including those involved in growth, metabolism and tissue repair, and are best known for their regulated use in insulin and GLP-1 RAs, such as semaglutide.

However, fuelled by social media promises of youthful skin, weight loss, muscle growth and enhanced cognitive function, people are buying unregulated products online that are not approved for human use.

Examples of unapproved peptide products include those containing BPC-157, GHK-Cu, TB-500, retatrutide and CJC-1295, which are often supplied in injectable form and may carry disclaimers such as "research use only" or "not for human consumption".

"These practices raise significant regulatory and public health risks, and the TGA is actively monitoring this issue from both safety and law



enforcement perspectives," the regulator stated.

In addition to unknown manufacturing standards, product labelling may be inaccurate or misleading, meaning consumers and healthcare professionals may not have reliable information about the ingredients, dosage and administration.

Reports of more serious adverse events associated with unapproved peptides include severe allergic reactions, systemic inflammatory response syndrome, and generalised hypersensitivity symptoms such as full-body intense itching, palpitations, pain and sweating.

The TGA is urging individuals and businesses involved in prescribing, compounding, supplying or promoting peptide products to ensure they understand and comply with all of their legal obligations, including regulatory requirements and relevant professional practice standards.

"Pharmacists should understand the expectations of the Pharmacy Board of Australia set out in their professional practice standards and guidelines, as well as ensure they comply with all relevant pharmacy legislation in their jurisdiction," the TGA noted, with particular reference to regulations around compounding.

Learn more **HERE**. **KB**

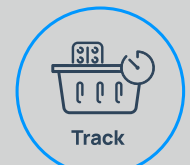
## QSPP roadshows

**AS THE** Quality Care Pharmacy Program transitions to the Quality and Safety Pharmacy Program (**PD 11** Mar), pharmacy owners, operators and stakeholders can learn more about the change, what it means in practice and ask any questions upcoming roadshows being held around the country.

The events kick off in Sydney on 28 Apr - more info **HERE**.

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1. Australian Government. Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. Australian Immunisation Handbook. Available at <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au>. Accessed March 2026. sanofi-aventis australia pty ltd trading as Sanofi. All rights reserved. ABN 31 008 558 807. Sydney, Australia. www.sanofi.com.au. MAT-AU-2600393 V1. Date of preparation: March 2026.





## Aravax appoints

**BIOTECHNOLOGY** company Aravax has announced two additions to its board of directors: former CEO of ALK-Abello, Carsten Hellmann and former CCO of Aimmune Therapeutics, Andrew Oxtoby.

The company has facilities in Australia, Europe, the UK and US, and specialises in next-generation, disease-modifying immunotherapies for food allergy.

Hellmann and Oxtoby bring many years and a depth of experience from the pharma industry, specifically in the allergy therapeutics field.

Aravax CEO Dr Pascal Hickey welcomed the new directors, and said, "These appointments represent big steps towards preparing Aravax for Phase 3 and beyond as we look forward to the results of Phase 2 trials in our lead program, PVX108 for the treatment of peanut allergy."

## \$14.6m allergy fund boost

THE Federal Government has announced a \$14.6 million funding boost over two years for the National Allergy Centre of Excellence (NACE) and the National Allergy Council (NAC) to help support the eight million Australians living with allergic diseases.

Established in August 2022 with an initial \$26.9 million in federal funding, the NAC and NACE have provided training in anaphylaxis treatment safe food preparation, educational resources for patients and healthcare professionals, and undertaken research and data analysis to generate new knowledge.

NAC director Dr Melanie Wong welcomed the additional funding until Jun 2028, and said: "The NAC and the NACE collaboration has already made significant inroads, and we now have an unprecedented opportunity to develop more targeted, effective public health responses to allergic disease in this country."

Professor Kirsten Perrett, director



of the NACE, said the federal commitment meant the peak allergy bodies could continue fast-tracking Australia's evidence-based response to the widespread chronic condition.

"There is no cure and no time to waste when it comes to allergies, which touch almost every family, school and healthcare service," she said.

"Our focus is to address complex clinical challenges through embedded allergy research, rigorous evaluation and the rapid translation of emerging evidence into clinical care.

"We are ensuring Australia remains at the forefront of allergy research," she concluded. *KB*

## Bambi fundraiser

**BAMBI** Mini Co is running its annual charity campaign, with specially designed socks available once again online and in-store at Chemist Warehouse until 26 Apr.

All proceeds raised from the socks and donations at the cash register go directly towards children's charities.

Bambi Mini Co founder Nicole Verrocchi first launched the fundraising campaign in 2021 as part of the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal, inspired by her son Raffi's battle with leukaemia and the extraordinary care the family received at the Melbourne hospital.

In 2025, the campaign helped raise \$500,000, bringing total funds raised since its launch to more than \$1.5 million.

This year, the campaign has expanded across every state in Australia and into New Zealand for the first time.

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## Dispensary Corner

IT'S time to put on those rose-tinted glasses - optimism has now been scientifically proven to lower your risk of dementia.

A US study followed more than 9,000 cognitively healthy adults with an average age of 73 for around 14 years.

The adults took part in a Life Orientation Test every four years, with 10 questions about their expectations of the future.

"Together with previous studies, our findings provide support for the possibility that optimism causally contributes to cognitive health and may be considered an asset for brain health," wrote the researchers.

Participants also did repeated memory tests to spot any issues around probable dementia.

The researchers suggested that optimism may be able to protect individuals against dementia through its link to a healthier immune response, and noted it also contributes to having more psychosocial resources, such as stronger social networks, and is associated with having lower levels of stress.

## Medicare-services underutilised in T2D

PEOPLE newly diagnosed with diabetes are potentially missing out on care that could make a big difference to the management and outcomes of the condition, according to new Australian research.

The team from the University of Sydney examined the health records of over 12,000 people recently diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, and identified a substantial underuse of Medicare-funded services, especially allied health services such as podiatry, dietetics, and diabetes education, within the first two years of diagnosis.

They found that only two-thirds (67.9%) received a GP management plan (GPMP), 61% received a GPMP and team care arrangement, and less than half (45.8%) claimed for at least one allied health service.

In addition, they found that only one-third of the total allied health claims were for essential self-management and lifestyle support services, such as dietitians, diabetes educators and exercise physiologists, which they said highlighted a potential discrepancy between service use and best-practice diabetes management.

Allied health service use was highest for podiatrists (26% with



at least one claim) and lowest for diabetes educators (6% with at least one claim).

Women, individuals aged 75 years and older, English-speakers, and those with obesity had higher odds of receiving a GPMP and progressing along the chronic disease management care pathway to allied health service use.

In contrast, people from remote areas had lower odds of accessing allied health services.

The researchers said targeted strategies are needed to improve initiation of care planning by GPs, and to ensure equitable access to government-funded allied health services.

"This study is the first to examine

Medicare-funded chronic disease management (CDM) service use among individuals with newly diagnosed diabetes," wrote the researchers in the *Australian Journal of Primary Health*.

"The results reveal substantial underutilisation of services within the first two years of diagnosis, despite the cohort having established comorbidities that could benefit from multidisciplinary care.

"Understanding where individuals are being lost along the CDM care pathway is necessary to inform policy interventions and strategies to increase allied health service use," they concluded.

Read the research [HERE](#). KB

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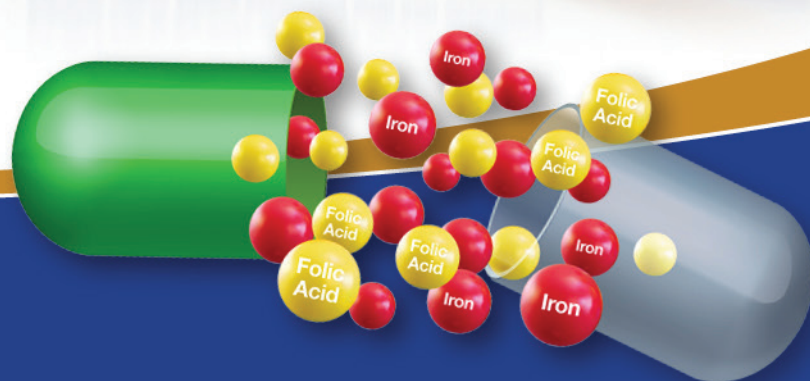
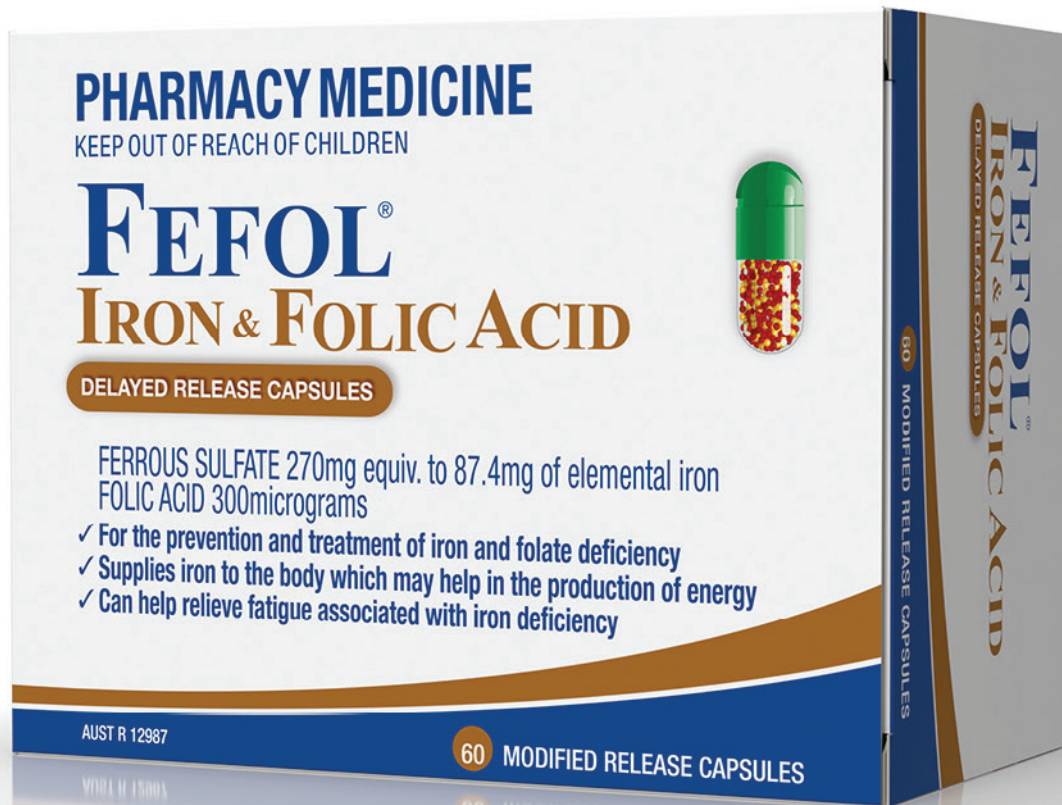


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