

Today's issue of PD

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

- **Pharmacium**
- **Glucojel**

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Pharmacy Connect

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bookings at the Pharmacy Connect conference venue are now open - learn more **HERE**.

Patients missing out on millions in savings

THE government's 60-day dispensing policy, designed to cut the cost of medicines for millions of Australians, is not living up to its potential because GPs and pharmacists have been slow to adopt it, new research has found.

The team from the George Institute for Global Health looked at uptake of the policy for blood pressure medicines over a two-year period since it launched in Sep 2023.

They found that despite clear financial benefits for patients, only 21.2% of antihypertensive prescriptions were through 60-day dispensing - much less than the government's projected uptake of 45%.

Patients taking antihypertensive medications saved around \$65 million through 60-day prescribing in the first 20 months of the policy, but the analysis found that if uptake rose to 50%, annual savings could reach \$165 million for patients and \$11.6 million for the government.

"The financial benefits for patients are substantial and well-established," said lead author Dr Tian Wang.

"The challenge now is making sure those benefits actually reach people, and that requires

action and support from GPs and pharmacists."

Among 20 GPs interviewed for the study, eight said they proactively offered 60-day prescriptions, six did so only if patients asked, and five rarely or never prescribed them.

Barriers for GPs included difficulty keeping track of which medicines were eligible for 60-day supply, and reports that pharmacists were discouraging the longer prescriptions.

GPs also pointed out that prescribing software defaulted to 30-day dispensing, making 60-day prescriptions a manual workaround rather than standard practice.

Four pharmacists interviewed for the study raised concerns about incorrect dispensing and potential medicine shortages if 60-day supply became more widespread, while lost income was also cited as a concern for pharmacy owners.

The researchers noted that the Additional Community Supply Support (ACSS) payment program introduced in Apr 2024 to offset the financial impact on pharmacies cost the government \$46.5 million in the first year.

While the 60-day dispensing policy generated \$87 million in gross PBS savings over the



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two-year study period, the ACSS payment reduced the government's net saving to \$0.3 million, with patients being the main financial beneficiaries of the policy to date.

The researchers suggested several measures to boost uptake of 60-day prescriptions, including working with GP software providers to make 60-day prescribing the default option for eligible medicines.

"Most patients are still on 30-day prescriptions simply because their GP has not yet made the switch," Dr Wang said.

"Updating prescribing software is one of the most straightforward changes that could make a real difference," she added.

The team also recommended highlighting to pharmacists the benefits to consumers and the availability of the ACSS payments to support 60-day prescribing. *KB*

Read the paper in the *MJA* **HERE**.

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Accuhaler advice

THE TGA has advised that GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) has issued a product correction for certain batches of their Flixotide and Pavtide Accuhalers, as a small number of them may not load the next dose automatically.

Devices from the affected batches will function normally at first, and may then stop working, requiring a manual reset.

This entails pushing the lever down towards the mouthpiece, then pushing it up away from the mouthpiece to 'load' the dose, as per normal instructions - the counter will indicate it has been reset correctly.

If the dose is not manually reset, this may lead to a short-term flare-up of asthma symptoms.

Patients are advised to keep using the devices, and ask their doctor or pharmacist for help if needed - learn more [HERE](#).

Med cannabis sales plunge

MEDICINAL cannabis sales in Australia have fallen sharply for the first time in nearly a decade, with experts from Penington Institute attributing the drop to a regulatory crackdown on high-volume prescribers and clinics.

Penington Institute has released a new report today showing a 28.5% decline in medicinal cannabis sales in the second half of 2025 after years of rapid growth.

Data from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing showed sales peaked at 3.72 million units in late 2024, plateauing in early 2025, then falling to 2.65 million units by year's end.

Penington Institute CEO, John Ryan, said the shift marks a turning point for the sector.

"This is the first real correction we've seen in Australia's medicinal cannabis market since it began," Ryan said.

"It suggests regulators are starting to get on top of the worst practices, particularly high-volume



prescribing driven by profit, not patient care."

While the Therapeutic Goods Administration continues its review of Australia's medicinal cannabis framework, prompted by mounting concerns about patient safety and the rapid rise of telehealth-driven prescribing (*PD* 11 Aug 2025), Ryan said data suggests increased enforcement is already having an impact.

"We are seeing the effect of targeted enforcement in real time," Ryan said.

"That is the most effective way to deal with bad actors without punishing patients who genuinely benefit from these medicines."

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

PSA welcomes new Vic Health Minister

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has congratulated Harriet Shing on her appointment as Victoria's new Minister for Health, following the announcement that outgoing minister Mary-Anne Thomas has retired from the ministry and will not stand in the upcoming election.

PSA Victorian president, Atinuke Abraham, welcomed the appointment and said the PSA looks forward to working constructively with Minister Shing to strengthen the state's health system and improve access to high-quality pharmacist care for Victorians.

Abraham also thanked Thomas for her leadership and commitment during a period of significant challenge and reform, as well as her engagement with the pharmacy profession on scope of practice initiatives.

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Editor's Choice: 1000Hour offers affordable beauty saving solutions

AUSTRALIAN brand 1000Hour has released a new at-home Lash Lift Kit (RRP \$39.99) and Brow Lamination Kit (RRP \$35.99) to help busy beauty lovers on the go.

Australia's first DIY lash lift kit (pictured), the new product is beginner-friendly with step-by-step instructions and offers three applications per kit, with results promised to last between six and eight weeks.

It also offers multiple shield sizes so all users can find the perfect fit.

As a salon lash lift can cost up to \$100 per appointment, the lash lift kit is a cost-saving way for women to maintain their lashes.

Meanwhile, people can also get



salon-quality fuller, lifted brows that stay in place at a fraction of the price, thanks to 1000Hour's convenient new lamination kit.

With a gentle formulation that is vegan and plant-based, the

innovative lamination kit is also ideal for beginners and offers multiple applications.

Both of 1000Hour's new kits are now available at Chemist Warehouse in-store and online.

Keep hair colour fresh



PROVOKE Haircare is helping Australians restore brightness and protect their colour this autumn with its Keep It Bright and Touch of Silver ranges at home.

After months of sun exposure, saltwater swims and chlorine dips, hair can be left dehydrated, damaged and stripped of its vibrancy, with blonde, grey and white tones looking dull, dry or brassy.

Provoke Keep It Bright shampoo and conditioner (both RRP \$11.00) help keep colour fresh and shiny between toning or colouring treatments with colour protection technology and optical brighteners.

Meanwhile, Provoke's advanced purple technology works to neutralise brassiness while restoring strength, with a shampoo and conditioner (both RRP \$14.00), as well as a five-minute hair mask (RRP \$15.00).

Dark circle correction

REVLON has released Glimmer Correcting Concealer (RRP \$27.00), available in three colour correcting shades to conceal dark circles and help visibly smooth fine, dry lines over time.

Best used layered over concealer, the ultra-lightweight formula moves with the skin and does not settle into fine lines, wrinkles or pores.



Don't get caught red-faced this autumn



WITH April marking Rosacea Awareness Month, BIODERMA has announced it is expanding its

Sensibio AR+ range with the launch of the Sensibio AR+ CC Cream (RRP \$47.99).

The product's hybrid skincare-meets-coverage formula helps soothe the skin in as little as 30 seconds, while concealing redness with adaptive, buildable coverage.

It also provides sun protection with SPF 50+ sunscreen, making it an easy daily multitasker for redness-prone skin.

Also in the range are Sensibio AR+ Cream (RRP \$42.99), BIODERMA's best-selling moisturiser designed to visibly reduce redness and strengthen the skin barrier, and the fast-acting Sensibio AR+ SOS Spray (RRP \$29.99).

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**SPECIAL REPORT
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*A year in review:
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Dispensary Corner

IF YOU'VE ever inadvertently touched the toilet seat in a public restroom, don't worry - research has shown there are far dirtier parts of this domain.

While toilet seats can carry bacteria, viruses, and even parasite traces, studies from Bond University show they're often cleaner than high-touch surfaces like door handles, flush levers, tap handles, and other parts of the restroom.

The biggest hidden threat comes from "toilet plumes" - tiny germ-filled droplets launched into the air when flushing without a lid.

These droplets can contain bacteria and viruses from the bowl and can travel up to two metres across the restroom (so always leave the toilet lid closed, folks)

Hand dryers can also contribute to the spread of germs, with these devices able to blow microbes onto your skin, other people, and surrounding surfaces.

So, is it safe to sit on a public toilet seat?

The answer is yes, and as we now know, there are far more dangerous things we likely all do when visiting the john in public.

Infections are more likely to come from contaminated hands, frequently touched surfaces, airborne droplets - and from using your phone while in the bathroom.

As it turns out, doom-scrolling on your iPhone may be more hazardous for your health than baring your cheeks to that public toilet seat.

Death knell for anti-amyloids?

ANTI-AMYLOID drugs for Alzheimer's disease are unlikely to have any clinically meaningful benefits, but may increase the risk of bleeding and swelling in the brain, according to a new Cochrane review published today.

The drugs - such as aducanumab, lecanemab, and donanemab - were developed to help remove the protein amyloid beta from the brains of people with early Alzheimer's disease in the hope of preventing or slowing disease progression.

The review examined data from 17 clinical trials including over 20,000 participants, all looking at the impact of anti-amyloid drugs on people with mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia due to Alzheimer's disease.

The research found that while early trials showed promising results, further analysis showed this did not translate into meaningful change for patients, with effects on cognitive decline and dementia severity falling well below established thresholds for the minimum clinically important difference.

"Unfortunately, the evidence suggests that these drugs make no meaningful difference to patients," said lead author Dr Francesco Nonino, neurologist and epidemiologist at the IRCCS Institute of Neurological Sciences of Bologna, Italy.

"There is now a convincing body of evidence converging on the conclusion that there is no clinically meaningful effect.

"While early trials showed results that were statistically significant, it is important to distinguish between this and clinical relevance."

In addition to the absence of clinically meaningful effects, the



review found that anti-amyloid drugs likely increase the risk of swelling and bleeding in the brain.

This was observed in brain scans without any apparent symptoms for most patients, although any long-term effects remain unclear since reporting of symptoms was inconsistent across trials.

The authors noted that while the drugs do successfully remove amyloid proteins from the brain, the evidence suggested that future trials targeting amyloid beta removal are unlikely to provide clear benefit to patients.

They recommended that future research on Alzheimer's treatment should focus on other mechanisms.

"This review does not prove amyloid has no role in Alzheimer's, and it does not rule out future amyloid-directed therapies that may yet help patients," commented Professor Bryce Vissel from the Faculty of Medicine at UNSW.

"But it does show that the current generation of anti-amyloid drugs is not delivering the promise that has surrounded it."

Australia recently approved lecanemab and donanemab for treatment in early Alzheimer's disease, although applications for listing on the PBS were not recommended by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee due to the small potential benefits set against high burden to patients and costs to the health system.

Read the study **HERE**. *KB*

CWH recommits to AFL partnership

CHEMIST Warehouse has announced the renewal of its long-standing partnership with the AFL, working with them to support the health, wellbeing and performance of players, umpires and fans.

As part of the deal, Chemist Warehouse has increased its investment in the sport's umpires, and over the next five years every pack of Gello Beans and Gello Snakes sold at the pharmacy chain will contribute to the minimum \$1 million investment in the AFL Umpires High Performance Pathway.

"Together, Chemist Warehouse and the AFL will continue to champion health, accessibility and community, while creating impactful connections with fans at every level of the game," a spokesperson said.

Akesa expands into Japan

AUSTRALIAN-BASED provider of pharmaceuticals for global clinical trials Akesa has announced its expansion into Japan, appointing senior pharmaceutical industry executive and licensed pharmacist Chisako Mizutani as country manager.

Mizutani brings more than 20 years of experience in clinical research and contract research organisation leadership across Japan and international markets, providing welcome expertise in operating in one of the world's most complex research environments.



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Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

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