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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from **Glucojel**.

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QSPP roadshows kick off today

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is running a series of roadshows around the country that take pharmacy owners, operators and other stakeholders through the transition from QCPP to QSPP.

Launching in Sydney tonight, the roadshows run to 27 May - learn more **HERE**.

Lilly rejects Mounjaro T2D PBS listing

ELI Lilly Australia has advised that Mounjaro (tirzepatide) will not become available through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for type 2 diabetes due to reimbursement conditions it considered unacceptable (**PD** breaking news 24 Apr).

While the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) recommended that Mounjaro be made available through the PBS and acknowledged the clinical value of the medicine, Lilly said it cannot proceed with the listing because the price the government is willing to pay is too low.

The pharma giant said the recommendation also included strict funding caps that "would have assigned disproportionate financial risk to Lilly".

"We do not make this decision lightly," said Manny Simons, GM of Eli Lilly Australia and New Zealand.

"After four reimbursement submissions and extensive departmental engagement over

three years, we were left with no other option.

"We understand how disappointing this will be for up to 450,000 Australians living with type 2 diabetes who should have access to Mounjaro through the PBS."

The company also noted that a significant share of the proposed expenditure on Mounjaro would flow to wholesalers and pharmacies rather than to Lilly, making long-term supply through the PBS unsustainable.

In addition to treating type 2 diabetes, the dual glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP) and glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonist is also TGA-approved for chronic weight management and for the treatment of obstructive sleep apnoea in adults with obesity.

"Based on today's outcome, it is difficult to see how a PBS listing for Mounjaro could be secured for people living with obesity or obesity-related disease," Simons noted.



"Lilly would like to thank the diabetes community for their vocal support of equitable access to Mounjaro in Australia," he concluded.

The similar GLP-1 receptor agonist semaglutide (Ozempic, Novo Nordisk) is PBS-listed for type 2 diabetes, and Health Minister Mark Butler has committed to listing its weight loss sibling Wegovy on the PBS, for patients with a BMI over 25 and established cardiovascular disease, providing the government can "negotiate a good price" (**PD** 13 Jan). **KB**

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Stocking rules reduce shortages

MINIMUM Stockholding Requirements (MSR), which were introduced on 01 Jul 2023, have had a positive impact on reducing drug shortages, according to a 24-month review by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

MSR required companies to have at least four or six months of stock available in Australia for certain Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listed medicines known as designated brands.

The stocking buffers were intended to ensure better continuity of supply in the Australian market and allow additional time to resolve global supply disruptions by identifying alternative supply sources wherever possible.

The review found that the MSR policy reduced the number and severity of shortages of designated brands, particularly where six months of stockholding was required, and among brands where compliance was higher.

Since Jul 2023, the proportion of shortages of first cohort designated brands where there was no available supply throughout the shortage decreased from 52% to 32%, a 38% reduction.

Among recommendations arising from the review was the development of an Australian 'critical medicines list' to guide ongoing strategies and policies for managing supply chain risk and medicine shortages, with MSR criteria to be extended to PBS-listed critical medicines.

Read the findings [HERE](#).

Neffy nasal adrenaline gets PBAC nod

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has released the outcomes of its Mar 2026 meeting, with Seqirus Australia's neffy adrenaline (epinephrine) nasal spray for emergency anaphylaxis treatment among the positive recommendations for PBS listing.

The PBAC considered that in light of previous shortages there was a clinical need for an alternative adrenaline product to the auto-injectable form EpiPen, while also acknowledging Neffy's longer shelf life and needle-free delivery.

It also recommended expanding the listing of Arexvy (respiratory syncytial virus vaccine, GSK) on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) to people aged 60 to 74 who are at high risk of lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV.

People aged 75 and older and First Nations adults 60-74 years are eligible for Arexvy under the NIP commencing 15 May (**PD** 20 Apr).

A pre-filled syringe form of Vyvgart (efgartigimod alfa, Argenta Australia) for adult patients with generalised myasthenia gravis



(gMG) was recommended, following its TGA approval earlier this year (**PD** 12 Mar).

The same drug was also approved by the TGA for progressive or relapsing active chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (**PD** 30 Mar) but was not recommended for PBS listing in this patient group.

There was a positive recommendation for a change to the authority listing for cannabidiol for Dravet syndrome from phone/online to streamlined.

It also recommended allowing prescribing by paediatricians for both initial and continuing treatment without the need for a consultation with a neurologist.

In addition to the positive recommendation for tirzepatide

Sydney Airport calls for pharmacy partners

SYDNEY Airport has launched a major Request for Proposal (RFP) covering core travel essentials categories - including pharmacy - across retail sites at T1 International terminal.

Mark Zaouk, Sydney Airport Group executive commercial, said the RFP represents "a rare opportunity to help shape the future of airport retail".

"This is a unique opportunity for retailers to play a defining role in the next chapter of travel essentials at Australia's international gateway," he said.

"We're seeking long-term partners who share our ambition to deliver exceptional, customer-first experiences, concepts that are innovative, commercially strong and go beyond traditional retail formats to meet the evolving needs of today's global passenger."

Sydney Airport is calling for proposals that have a strong emphasis on creativity, innovation and customer-centric design, while also encouraging "visionary proposals" that challenge traditional category boundaries.

Learn more [HERE](#).

(Mounjaro, Lilly) for type 2 diabetes - which was ultimately rejected by Lilly (see [page one](#)) - other recommendations included ciclosporin (Vyvyde, Aft Pharmaceuticals) for dry eye disease with keratitis; dupilumab (Duxipant, Sanofi-Aventis) for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); and mepolizumab (Nucala, GSK) for COPD.

See the full outcomes [HERE](#). **KB**

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Dispensary Corner

BELOVED pink icon Millie, the mobile screening bus for the Northern Territory government's BreastScreen NT, is set for one final trip after 10 years of service.

Her farewell tour kicked off yesterday at NT Parliament House in Darwin, where she will be situated until Fri when she embarks for Groote Eylandt.

The journey will see her drive 12,000km, visiting nine remote communities, providing service to around 1,000 women.

During her time in service, Millie has screened a total of 11,926 women, diagnosing 84 of them with breast cancer, in addition to delivering over 1,000 education activities.

NT residents who want to make an appointment with Millie can do so by calling BreastScreenNT on 13 20 50.



Effective communication is key: PDL

PHARMACEUTICAL Defence Limited (PDL) has reminded members about the importance of effective communication, warning that poor communication can lead to patient harm or complaints, even when there has been no clinical error.

The professional indemnifiers noted that effective communication is a core professional competency for pharmacists and is directly linked to patient safety, therapeutic outcomes, and professional conduct.

It is not uncommon for complaints to arise simply because of how something was communicated, rather than what was actually said, they pointed out.

"Often a genuine apology and managing the situation with professionalism can be the differences between an incident being resolved locally or it progressing to a regulatory notification," PDL stated.

"A pharmacist's defensiveness, and a lack of empathy or follow up with the patient are often mentioned in complaints to regulators," they noted.

With pharmacists expected to help patients to understand their medicines, make informed choices,



and use treatments safely and appropriately, PDL acknowledged that balancing time and workload pressures with the patient's individual needs can be challenging.

However, taking the time to do this at the time of dispensing can prevent medication misadventure.

"Sound clinical decisions may be compromised if they are not communicated clearly, received effectively, and delivered with respect," they pointed out.

Communication issues are not limited to pharmacy, with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care identifying communication failures as a major contributor to patient complaints across the entire healthcare system.

The Commission emphasised

that patients who feel ignored, dismissed or poorly informed are significantly more likely to escalate concerns to regulators.

PDL professional officers have outlined several common areas where improved communication may prevent an incident from occurring or help de-escalate an interaction, thereby reducing the risk of a regulatory complaint.

Among them are: considering privacy and confidentiality; communicating clearly and professionally, taking health literacy and potential communication barriers into account; actively listening to the patient's concerns and confirming they have understood the information provided; and practicing culturally safe care. KB



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