

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

Tavneos under review

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has announced it is undertaking a review of the benefits and risks of Tavneos (avacopan) as regulators overseas have moved to revoke the drug's approval (PD 30 Jun).

Avacopan is used to treat antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody (ANCA)-associated vasculitis, a rare autoimmune condition that affects small blood vessels.

The TGA is reviewing information around concerns regarding the integrity and reliability of the clinical trial data that supported the drug's approval in Australia, and will assess its efficacy and safety in light of this new information.

The *New England Journal of Medicine* retracted the pivotal study on 29 Jun 2026 on the request of two independent academic lead authors after they learnt of a data integrity breach.

Further details, including any updated advice for healthcare professionals and patients, will be provided when available.

In the meantime, the TGA noted that decisions about treatment should be made in consultation with a healthcare professional who can consider an individual patient's clinical circumstances.

Supporting meds safety for all

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has launched the eighth report of its Medicine Safety series, *Medicine Safety: Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Community Care*, outlining five new measures to ensure fairer and safer access to medicines for all.

"Medicine safety is our highest priority, and no Australian should experience medicines-related harm because of the language they speak, the culture they hold or their ability to access and navigate healthcare services safely," said PSA president Professor Naunton as he launched the report.

"As a pharmacist, I have seen firsthand how easily misunderstandings can occur when patients are unable to access medicines information in a language they understand.

"What might seem like a minor communication barrier can affect how medicines are taken, how side effects are recognised and ultimately whether treatment is safe and effective."

The PSA has called for the adoption of five key measures:

- A national policy to support the routine use of professional interpreters and other culturally appropriate communication tools.
- Targeted strategies to increase Home Medicines Reviews, including culturally tailored referral pathways and community engagement.
- An expansion of national health data to include key cultural indicators such as English proficiency and languages spoken at home.
- Investment in multilingual

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medicine information on topics such as dosing instructions.

- Integrating cultural and medicine safety into pharmacist education and practice.

"Navigating our complex health system is challenging, and it is significantly more difficult for Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who, as a result, face a higher risk of medicine-related harm," said Professor Naunton.

"We are confident that adopting these sensible measures at the policy-making table will make an immediate difference to the frontline care pharmacists provide across the nation," he concluded.

Access the report [HERE](#).

Wellbeing award nominations open

THE Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS) has announced that nominations for the 2026 John Coppock Pharmacist Wellbeing Award are now open.

Honouring the contribution of John Coppock to the wellbeing of pharmacists, the award recognises those who proactively put in place a well-considered strategy to encourage and promote the physical, emotional and mental health of those working in the profession.

This could include new approaches to preventing or managing stressful situations, leading culture change, supporting team members or otherwise benefitting the wellbeing of members of the pharmacy profession.

Nominations close on 10 Sep with the winner announced on 10 Oct, which is World Mental Health Day - learn more [HERE](#).

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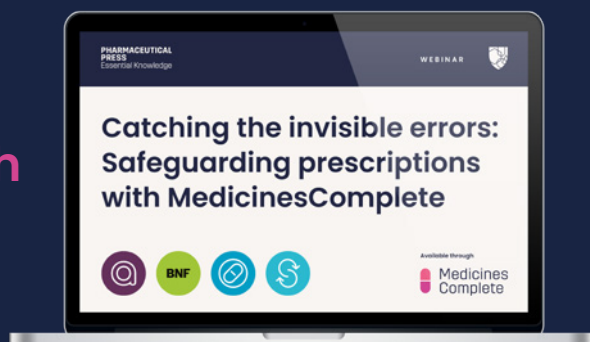
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Taking the piss

KIDNEY Health Australia has developed an attention-grabbing media campaign called Taking The Piss to highlight the importance of testing for kidney disease.

The campaign features a character called Peet, who sings about his regret of not having done a piss test earlier, and has ended up hooked up to a dialysis machine to stay alive.

A kidney health check consists of three checks: a blood test, a blood pressure check and a urine test, with the urine test the one most commonly skipped.

"A staggering 77% of people at risk of kidney disease have not had a kidney piss test in the last 24 months," Kidney Health Australia CEO Chris Forbes said.

"We need Australians at risk to literally take the piss, so we developed a campaign to get the message across," he explained ahead of its 13 Aug launch.

Getting on message with maternal RSV vax

RECENT evidence has shown that prevention strategies are having a positive impact on this winter's respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) season, with early data indicating a 50% reduction in newborn hospitalisations nationally.

While these results are encouraging, experts say achieving the full benefit of RSV prevention relies on effective communication between healthcare professionals and pregnant women, and key to that is being up to date with the facts around RSV vaccination.

"All of the data that we're looking at so far is showing that maternal vaccination in pregnancy is safe for both the woman and her newborn," Assoc Prof Angela Brown, Midwifery Program director at the University of Adelaide, told **Pharmacy Daily**.

"And the data is also showing in Australia and across the world that it's reducing hospitalisations, particularly in those early months when babies are really vulnerable."

Assoc Prof Brown said it is critical that all health professionals that pregnant women encounter are reinforcing the same messaging, particularly around safety, and pointed to the key role of pharmacists as the health professionals women are likely to have the most contact with.

"Pharmacists could ask if maternal RSV vaccination has been discussed, and provide advice around that, explaining why RSV disease can be really serious for babies," she said.

"Safety is a really key concern for women - they want to know what they are doing is safe, and pharmacists can really reinforce that safety message."

As maternal immunisation becomes a routine part of antenatal care, Assoc Prof Brown noted that clinicians are increasingly navigating conversations with women from diverse cultural backgrounds, varying levels of health literacy and differing healthcare experiences, with many people also influenced

by social media information - and misinformation.

One of the main misconceptions around maternal RSV vaccination is that it is just a mild disease.

"Without scaring women, they need to understand that RSV can be a really serious disease," Assoc Prof Brown noted.

"Some women also believe that the vaccine may give them RSV, but just let them know that it's not a live vaccine, so it can't cause RSV.

"Women might also think that if they have had the vaccine in a previous pregnancy, then they don't need to have it again, whereas it is recommended in every pregnancy," she stated.

"And some women might be saying, well, I won't have it, I'll just get the baby done after birth.

"But access and eligibility for the monoclonal antibodies is not uniform across Australia, and for many women, the idea of not having to give their newborn a needle is quite attractive," she concluded. **KB**

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Dispensary Corner

WHILE capable of causing nerve damage and paralysis even at extremely low doses, two related plants - wolfsbane and larkspur - could be potential game changers in the medicines space.

Scientists from Michigan State University and the Czech Academy of Sciences recently discovered enzymes within the plants that create a compound known as atisinium, which can be used to tackle pain, malaria and cancer, as well as agricultural pests.

Findings have been published in the journal *Molecular Plant*, which emphasises the notion that despite advances in modern medicine, plants remain vastly superior in producing intricate natural chemicals.

"Humans have found countless uses for these molecules in everyday life," said Czech Academy of Sciences graduate student and co-author of the paper Lana Mutabdzija.

"These include caffeine, capsaicin, menthol and vanillin, not to mention the fact that many of the medicines we use today either come directly from plants or are inspired by plant chemistry," she added.

Investing in pharmacy's future

NATIONAL Pharmacies is investing in postgraduate prescribing qualifications for its pharmacists as part of its commitment to expanded scope practice and improved access to care.

More than 15 pharmacists from the banner group are currently undertaking prescribing qualifications through Monash University or Adelaide University, including pharmacists working in regional communities, with plans to train up to a further 20 pharmacists next year.

With the support of the South Australian Government funding, National Pharmacies is helping to fund the training and associated costs, such as interstate travel and study leave for face-to-face workshops.

Around half of National Pharmacies' pharmacist trainees are receiving a 50% subsidy for course fees from the SA Government, with National Pharmacies paying the balance.

For those not covered by the government subsidy, National Pharmacies is meeting the full cost of the training.

National Pharmacies pharmacist Van Duong is studying the new qualification through Adelaide University, and said she was excited to be among the first group of local graduates to be able to prescribe in South Australia from next year.

"I'm really looking forward to being able to make healthcare



much more accessible for people, especially at times when options are limited and support is needed most," Duong (**pictured**) said.

National Pharmacies Chief Pharmacist Bec Rogers said investment in expanded scope practice would help strengthen the primary healthcare workforce while creating new opportunities for pharmacists to deliver advanced clinical care.

"By investing in prescribing qualifications, we're building a highly skilled workforce that can support patients, reduce pressure on other parts of the health system, particularly in regional communities, and help meet growing healthcare demand," Rogers said.

National Pharmacies also invests in future regional healthcare through the National Pharmacies Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Program, which supports pharmacy students from country communities and those intending to practise in regional Australia. *KB*

Call for asthma action in kids

ASTHMA has been confirmed as the leading cause of total disease burden for children aged five to 14 years, leading to calls for asthma in children to be treated as a national health priority.

Data from the recently released Australian Institute of Health and Welfare *Australia's Health 2026* report (**PD** 09 Jul) showed that asthma caused a greater burden in children than autism, anxiety, depression and conduct disorders.

Yet despite this burden, asthma is one of the least supported childhood conditions in terms of national prevention, education, navigation and care infrastructure.

Asthma Australia CEO Kate Miranda said the finding was a clear signal that asthma in children needs to be treated as a national health priority, not a background condition.

"This report shows asthma has become our biggest childhood health challenge," Miranda said.

"For too long, asthma has been dismissed as something children simply grow out of or learn to live with, but the evidence tells a very different story.

"It's time children get the support they need."



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