

## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features two pages of the latest industry news.

### CF drug PBS-listed

**FOLLOWING** its approval by the TGA last year (*PD* 24 Nov 2025), cystic fibrosis (CF) drug Alyftrek (vanzacaftor/tezacaftor/deutivacaftor, Vertex) is now PBS-listed.

The drug is indicated for the treatment of people aged six years and older who meet the diagnostic criteria for CF and who have a responsive mutation in the CF transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene.

### Neffy available

**CSL Seqirus** has announced that neffy adrenaline (epinephrine) nasal spray is now available.

The spray was TGA-approved earlier this year for use in emergency treatment of anaphylaxis in adults and children 15kg+ and aged four years and over (*PD* 19 Jan).

## Doctors demand evidence of scope safety

**THE** Royal Australian College GPs (RACGP) has called for "guardrails to protect patient safety", following a Western Australia Government announcement that a further 40 pharmacists will start prescriber training this month as part of the Enhanced Access Community Pharmacy Pilot (*PD* 08 Aug 2025), adding to the 50 already training.

RACGP WA chair Dr Ramya Raman said reforms must strike the right balance between improving access and ensuring quality patient care, and WA must demonstrate that the pilot is safe before expanding training to more pharmacists.

"We support innovation, but diagnosis, follow-up and continuity aren't optional extras," she said.

"These safeguards exist for a reason, to catch red flags, prevent misdiagnosis, ensure antibiotics are used appropriately, and to keep people well.

"Any model that bypasses these puts Western Australians at risk."

"Before WA scales this pilot, we need independent, published evidence showing that issues are being identified promptly, antibiotics are being prescribed appropriately, and results and clinical notes are reaching a patient's usual GP the

same day," she said.

Meanwhile in South Australia, the RACGP has called on the state government to match the position laid out by Liberal health spokesperson Heidi Girolamo on the role of pharmacists and GPs in primary care.

When asked at a recent Australian Medical Association event if she supports the pharmacy scope of practice expansion, Girolamo said: "That is not a policy of ours, that is something we are working through and we've got a number of weeks leading up to the election, but our focus is on GPs."

RACGP SA Chair Dr Sian Goodson reiterated her WA counterpart's contentions about a lack of evidence supporting pharmacist prescribing trials, stating that a "lack of rigorous data raises real concerns about patient safety".

"When trials shift decision making into commercial environments, they risk putting business considerations ahead of patient needs, and that creates unacceptable conflicts of interest in healthcare," Dr Goodson said.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has vigorously rejected Girolamo's position, with national executive



director Gerard Benedet calling her comments "shockingly misinformed and frankly backwards".

"The South Australian Liberals are not serious about increasing access to world-class health services if they reject community pharmacists working to their full scope of practice," Benedet said.

"I never thought I'd see a Shadow Health Minister willingly seek to remove women's access to the diagnosis and treatment of uncomplicated UTIs.

"Also at risk is the management of minor wounds, addressing skin conditions such as impetigo, initiation of hormonal contraception and expanding immunisation coverage by specially trained community pharmacists.

"Pharmacists consistently go above and beyond for the people they serve - especially in South Australia," he concluded. *KB*

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## Dispensary Corner

**SEAWEED** - it may be slippery, slimy, and not exactly an appealing addition to one's diet, but it does happen to also be a pretty powerful superfood.

Canadian marine biologist and kelp harvester, Amanda Swiminer, has sung the praises of the marine macroalgae, which is packed full of key minerals and nutrients.

"Fibre is the largest component of seaweed's biomass," Swiminer told the *Daily Mail*.

"Some of these fibres, like fucoidan, have been shown to have disease-preventing properties in peer-reviewed in-vitro and in-vivo studies."

In other words, eating seaweed regularly can help to boost your immune system, lower inflammation and reduce blood pressure.

The marine algae is also very low in fat and calories, making it an ideal snack for those who are trying to lose weight.

If that's not enough, most edible seaweeds also contain vitamins A, B-complex, C, D, E and K, and are a great source of calcium, prebiotics and essential fatty acids.

Swinminer recommended eating seaweed from all three groups - greens, reds and browns - but if you are picking just one, nori boasts the highest protein content.



## TWC launches women's health focus

**TERRYWHITE** Chemmart (TWC) today launched a new national women's health focus, positioning its community pharmacists as a trusted frontline destination for women's health care.

The initiative integrates existing pharmacist-led women's services under a unified national framework, supported by private CareClinic consultation spaces (**pictured**) and a digital booking system.

In the context of the Federal Government's \$573 million women's health investment, the focus translates national policy reform into accessible, everyday care delivered through local community pharmacies.

TWC pharmacists and pharmacy assistants have access to a comprehensive suite of training resources, including an 11-part video series on delivering a broad range of women's health services.

This is complemented by dedicated modules designed to build confidence in providing evidence-based product and lifestyle recommendations for women

seeking menopause support.

Focus partners include GenM, the home of the MTick symbol and certification for menopause-friendly products, and WellFemme, a telehealth menopause clinic delivering expert care for those in perimenopause and menopause.

TWC pharmacist prescriber, Tahnee Simpson, said the focus represents a fundamental shift in how women access healthcare.

"Women don't experience health in silos," Simpson said.

"Their needs change across life stages, and they need care that is accessible, trusted and coordinated," she explained.

"Community pharmacy is uniquely placed to deliver that because we are local, highly trained and embedded in everyday healthcare.

"From contraception access and UTI treatment through to vaccinations, menopause support and telehealth referrals, pharmacists are now delivering



structured, protocol-driven women's health services that are safe, evidence-based and genuinely accessible."

Meanwhile, Ovarian Cancer Australia is joining forces with TWC to raise awareness of the disease and provide support for those affected by it.

"This is about building a health-led operating model, not a marketing campaign," Simpson explained.

"It's about creating a nationally consistent framework where women can access care confidently through their local pharmacy, supported by strong governance, training and partnerships." **KB**

## Guild to launch first pharmacy owner census since 2012

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia is set to launch its first member census for more than a decade, giving every pharmacy owner the opportunity to share the realities of their business, team and future ambitions.

The census aims to create a comprehensive picture of today's community pharmacy sector, helping to ensure planning, advocacy, support and member services reflect the real operating environment facing pharmacy owners today.

"Much has changed since the

last census - from the services community pharmacies provide and the expectations of Australian patients, to the pressures of running a small business and the growing demand for a skilled, sustainable workforce," said Professor Trent Twomey, Guild national president.

"Accurate, contemporary information from our members is critical to ensuring the Guild can advocate effectively, tailor support services, direct workforce initiatives and help build long-term industry thriving,"



he explained.

When it opens in Mar, the census can be completed via an online form or a phone-based interview at a time that suits.

All information will be de-identified and aggregated, with no individual pharmacy identifiable in any reporting.