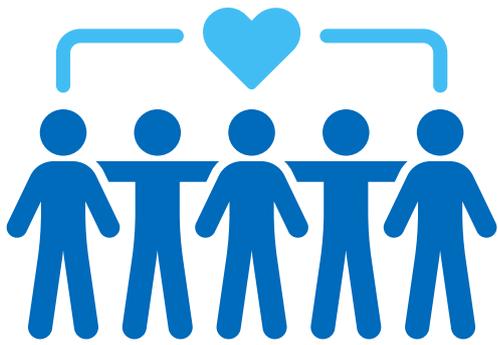


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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of industry news, plus a front cover wrap from **Pharmacy Choice**, and a full page from **ID Station**.

Freedom to be you

PHARMACY Choice provides banner-level support, buying power and marketing, while allowing full independence - see the **cover page** for more.

Passport to profit

THE ID Station biometric passport camera system provides ICAO-compliant passport photos that deliver high margin returns for pharmacy businesses. It is quick to set up and easy to use, with no expertise required - learn more on **p3**.

Coffee with FIP

THE latest International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) podcast features the University of Sydney's Assoc Prof Betty Chaar among guests discussing the ethical dimensions of pharmacist prescribing, including patient trust, privacy and managing conflicts of interest. Learn how to tailor treatments while upholding the highest ethical standards as pharmacist prescribing evolves - catch it **HERE**.

From awareness to action

SHINGLES Awareness Week is rebranding this year to Shingles Action Week, as a result of research showing that knowledge alone is not enough.

Commencing today and running until 01 Mar, the focus is on encouraging at-risk Australians, especially those 50+ and living with comorbidities that increase risk of shingles, to talk to a health professional to better understand their personal risks.

Professor Paul Van Buynder, Public health physician and professor at the School of Medicine at Griffith University in Queensland, said Shingles Action Week is a timely reminder for people to have an informed conversation with a GP or pharmacist about their risks.

"We know awareness isn't enough, many people don't connect shingles to their own risk until it hits close to home," he said. "Shingles Action Week is about changing that."

The international research commissioned by GSK found that 83% of Australian adults aged 50-70 who are living with long-term health conditions were worried that shingles could disrupt everyday life, yet almost half (44%) had not discussed it with their GP or pharmacist.

Meanwhile, there are potentially millions of adults aged 50 and over living with long-term health conditions that can increase shingles risk, including cardiovascular disease (over 3 million), diabetes (over 1.1 million), asthma (over 1 million) and rheumatoid arthritis (around 400,000 people).



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Dr Geoff Lester, director of health promotion charity Hearts4heart, said shingles is a risk for almost all Australian adults and can add further burden for people living with long-term health conditions.

"For people already managing an ongoing health issue, shingles can add an extra layer of physical and emotional strain," Dr Lester explained.

"Shingles Action Week is the time to take action and speak with your healthcare professional, whether that's your GP, pharmacist or specialist," he concluded. **KB**
Learn more **HERE**.

J&J facing talc class action

AUSTRALIAN law firm Shine Lawyers has commenced a class action against Johnson & Johnson, alleging its talcum powder products were "defective, unfit for purpose and not of merchantable quality due to the potential to cause cancer".

Cancers include those of the female reproductive system (such as ovarian cancer and fallopian tube cancer), cancers of epithelial tissue (commonly called carcinomas) or cancer of mesothelial tissue and/or linings of the body (including mesothelioma), and result from alleged contamination with asbestos.

Similar class actions in the US have resulted in billions of dollars in legal liabilities for J&J, and while the company maintains its talc products are safe, it has switched to using cornstarch instead.



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Dispensary Corner

IF YOU'RE wondering whether your gym fees provide good value for money, check out what's being offered to the 250 members of the exclusive Continuum wellness centre in New York's Manhattan.

With an annual fee of US\$100,000 (A\$140k) per year, the club is very much the domain of celebrities and pro athletes, who are willing and able to afford a gym boasting top-of-the-line equipment.

Granted, it also provides benefits such as a float tank, meeting rooms, a hyperbaric chamber, a red light bed and unlimited massages.

They will also help you make sense of data from your Fitbit or Oura so you can be your healthiest self, while a lifestyle concierge can help with life admin, like restaurant bookings.

"Look, it's not cheap," founder and CEO Jeff Halevy admitted to the *New York Post*.

"But for a certain demographic that's already spending money on these things, it's actually a good deal," he claimed.

Improving meds management

RESEARCHERS at Monash University and Flinders University have released a new guide on how to establish and lead a quality improvement collaborative (QIC) that supports senior healthcare professionals, managers and leaders across healthcare settings looking to improve medication management practices.

Developed as part of Monash University's Maximising Embedded Pharmacists in AGed Care Medication Advisory Committees (MEGA-MAC) project, the QIC uses an evidence-based approach to bring healthcare professionals together from different sites to learn, share and implement best practice in a measurable and sustainable way.

"Quality improvement collaboratives go beyond just bringing people together," said Professor Simon Bell from the Centre for Medicine Use and Safety (CMUS) within the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

"They provide a structured way for healthcare teams to implement changes, use data to track their progress, and learn from others on what works in practice," Professor Bell said.

"This helps healthcare teams to move from ideas to measurable



improvement," he added.

CMUS senior research fellow Dr Amanda Cross helped develop the guide, titled *Improving medication management together: a practical guide to establishing and leading a quality improvement collaborative*.

"Our experiences from the MEGA-MAC trial demonstrated the value and potential for quality improvement collaboratives and informed the development of this step-by-step guide," Dr Cross said.

"The MEGA-MAC quality improvement collaborative brought together pharmacists and nurses working across four states of Australia, and was supported by an expert panel of clinicians, implementation scientists and consumer representatives.

"It was an excellent example of how we can share ideas and work together to support implementation of best practice."

To access the guide, click [HERE](#).

MHT not linked to risk of death

MENOPAUSAL hormone therapy (MHT) is not associated with an increased risk of death, according to a Danish study of over 800,000 women published last week.

Researchers used nationwide Danish registers to track women born between 1950 and 1977, and followed them for a median of 14 years from the age of 45.

After controlling for health and demographic factors that may have influenced outcomes, they found no increased risk of death from taking MHT.

There was also some evidence suggesting that transdermal MHT had a slightly lower risk of death compared to no treatment.

Endocrinologist Professor Susan Davis, from Monash University, urged caution in reading too much into the results, pointing out that the general duration of use was brief, at a median 1.7 years.

"So would we expect MHT use for an average of less than two years to cause harm?" she said - read the research [HERE](#).

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