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### Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Pharmacy Choice
- Ramsay Pharmacy
- Oexa Light

### Welcoming interns

RAMSAY Pharmacy welcomes its 2026 pharmacy intern cohort and is proud to support them as they grow into the next generation of pharmacists.

Learn more on [page five](#).

### Body Worlds in Vic

#### WORLD-RENOWNED

exhibition, *Body Worlds: The Anatomy of Happiness*, is heading to Melbourne in Mar, combining art and science in its exhibits of preserved human specimens in various stages of health and disease - find out more [HERE](#).

## Senate committee paves way for RN prescribing

REGISTERED nurse prescribing is a step closer, with the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee recommending the passage of the Health Legislation Amendment (Prescribing of Pharmaceutical Benefits) Bill 2025.

The Australian College of Nursing has welcomed the Committee's unanimous recommendation to pass the bill, after it found strong support for the reform across the health sector and wider community.

If passed by the Senate, the bill would enable endorsed nurse prescribers to access PBS subsidies from Jul 2026, meaning patients can access rebates for nurse-prescribed medicines.

Those who stand to benefit most from the reform are people in rural, regional and remote communities, First Nations populations, palliative care patients, and those seeking sexual and reproductive health services - groups that have long faced barriers to timely, affordable care.

The Committee was satisfied that robust safeguards are embedded in the legislation, including prescribing agreements with authorised health practitioners, specific qualification and endorsement requirements, and full inclusion under the Professional Services Review - the same oversight framework that applies to all other PBS prescribers.



With nurses already undertaking study to become RN prescribers, the ACN has called for the bill to be passed without delay and necessary legislation put in place before the first cohort graduates in Jul.

"Designated registered nurse prescribing will strengthen the health system by easing workforce pressures and building the long-term capacity and sustainability our communities urgently need," said Australian College of Nursing CEO, Adjunct Professor Kathryn Zeitz.

"We congratulate the Committee on its decisive recommendation," she added. *KB*

### Freedom to be you

PHARMACY Choice provides banner-level support, buying power and marketing, while allowing full independence - see [page four](#) for more.

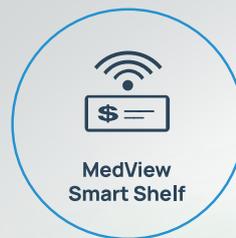
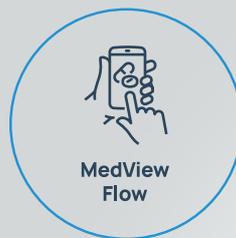
### Let there be Light

OEXA, the creators behind Scripty and Managed Intermediary, has launched a brighter future for pharmacy care - see [page six](#) for more.

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*A year in review:  
2025's biggest news*

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## Patient consult app set to go national

A **NEW** app designed to enhance telehealth healthcare delivery, the Patient Consult Summary (PCS), is being rolled out nationally on the Healthdirect Video Call platform after successful development and validation in Victorian public health services.

Healthdirect Video Call is used across hospitals, community health centres, general practices, allied health settings and virtual emergency departments, and facilitates over 150,000 virtual consultations a month.

The PCS app enables health service providers using the virtual consultation to provide patients with clear, written consultation summaries in real time, using typed or talk-to-text functionality.

Summaries are supported by plain-English explanations of common medical terminology, helping patients better understand their condition and next steps in care.

"By focusing on what patients told us they needed - clearer information, better understanding, and support beyond the consultation - this collaboration has delivered a tool that strengthens virtual care while maintaining clinical safety, data privacy, and quality," said project lead Professor Rashina Hoda from Monash University's Faculty of Information Technology.

Learn more [HERE](#).

## More access to diabetes tech urged

**THE** diabetes community is calling for better access to life-changing diabetes technologies, making submissions to the 2026-27 Federal Budget pushing for subsidies aimed at those at greatest risk of complications.

Backed by peak diabetes, research and lived experience organisations, the submissions stated that investing in effective diabetes management technologies is one of the most powerful ways to reduce the wider personal and economic impacts of this condition.

The submissions urge the Australian Government to expand subsidies for automated insulin delivery (AID) systems for people living with type 1 diabetes, and continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) devices for people living with type 2 diabetes and other types of diabetes, through the National Diabetes Services Scheme.

Diabetes costs the Australian health system an estimated \$14.2 billion annually, with costs forecast to increase to \$45 billion by 2050.

However, modelling shows that more affordable access to insulin pumps and CGM devices would deliver long-term savings to the health system by reducing preventable complications and hospitalisations.

Diabetes Australia's group CEO Justine Cain said CGM devices and AID systems are now the standard of care.

"These technologies aren't a 'nice to have', they are absolutely necessary," Cain said.

"Right now, we're seeing a



widening gap between what we know works and what people can afford - cost should never determine whether someone can access life-changing care."

Cain explained the technology has benefits for people at all life stages, from children on school camps and women planning a healthy pregnancy, to older people who can maintain independence and avoid hospital submissions.

"These technologies provide real-time insights and precise insulin adjustments that dramatically reduce the risk of heart attack, stroke, blindness, kidney disease and limb amputations.

"But for too many Australians, they are simply unaffordable."

Priority groups for subsidised devices include children and young adults under 21, people experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and those planning pregnancy or pregnant.

"This is an important policy conversation that can deliver meaningful change for people living with diabetes, and we welcome the opportunity to work constructively with government and partners across the sector to take it forward," Cain concluded. *KB*

## Platform integrates pharmacy services

**OEXA**, the team behind Scripty, has launched Light, an innovative new clinical platform to support the expanding role of community pharmacies.

Designed to bring bookings, professional services recording, pharmacist prescribing and government claiming into one platform, Light integrates with national health infrastructure, including the Australian Immunisation Register, Pharmacy Programs Administrator and My Health Record.

With AI tools and patient reported outcome measures available soon, Light can provide pharmacists with one place to document and manage clinical services, as well as digital support to deliver more proactive care to their patients.

"We built this now because pharmacy's role is changing faster than the tools supporting it," said Mina Giang, Oexa's co-founder and head of product and experience.

"Pharmacies should have choice in how they operate, how they engage their patients, and what digital tools they use," she explained.

"Every time we make that easier for pharmacists, it shows up in the experience for patients.

"We're building for where pharmacy is going, not where it's been," Giang concluded.

The future of  
pharmacy care  
is about to get  
**brighter.**



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### Dispensary Corner

**IT SEEMS** losing sleep over poor sleep data is a real medical condition.

As wearable trackers drive the pursuit of perfect sleep metrics, people are becoming more aware about the length and quality of their rest, which can cause stress and anxiety when it is perceived to be less than optimal.

In turn, this can lead to people developing a case of orthosomnia, a phenomenon which describes an unhealthy preoccupation with attaining "perfect sleep".

Experts suggest that wearable trackers like Oura, Garmin and Fitbit - used by nearly half of Americans - are partly to blame for the fixation, driving some users to treat sleep as something to perform.

"They often become concerned when their data shows a problem, especially when they compare their results to someone else in the household," Dr Alon Avidan, director of the UCLA Sleep Disorders Center, told the *New York Post*.

The trouble is, sleep tracking on these wearable devices is notoriously unreliable, because they can't directly measure brain activity.

If obsessing over sleep data is causing you to lose sleep, experts recommend ditching the devices altogether, and going analogue with a sleep journal, where you record your perceptions of sleep time and quality - after all, it's how you feel when you wake up that matters.

## Opioids not effective for acute pain

**OPIOID** pain relievers prescribed for acute pain provide only small, short-term relief for some acute conditions and are ineffective for some others, according to the world's largest review of the medicines.

The study team, led by researchers from the University of Sydney, set out to investigate the efficacy and harms of opioid pain relievers - such as codeine, morphine, oxycodone and tramadol - compared with placebo for acute pain.

They looked at 59 systematic reviews covering more than 50 acute pain conditions in children and adults.

"Opioids are among the most commonly prescribed treatments for acute pain, however, our review found that they did not provide

large or lasting pain relief compared with placebo for the vast majority of acute pain conditions, with pain relief typically lasting only a few hours," said lead author Associate Professor Christina Abdel Shaheed, from the School of Public Health at the University of Sydney.

The team found that overall, oral opioids were only slightly better than placebo for acute musculoskeletal pain, in the six to 48 hours after starting treatment, but were linked with increased risk of side effects when used for acute musculoskeletal pain, some types of post-surgical pain or traumatic limb pain.

"By showing that the benefits are generally small, short-lived, absent for many common conditions, and sometimes harmful, our research challenges the widely held belief



that opioids are the most effective 'go-to' option for acute pain," Associate Professor Shaheed said.

The findings also raised concerns about side effects, especially dependence and tolerance with regular use.

"Persistent use of opioid medicines can develop quickly following first time use - sometimes within days - and may arise from regular use for acute pain," said co-first author Dr Stephanie Mathieson from School of Pharmacy.

Read the paper [HERE](#). KB

## PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### Hartley's Gripe Water

Hartley's Gripe Water is a natural blend of herbal ingredients including dill seed oil, peppermint oil, chamomile and coriander oil. These herbs have been used safely in commercial infant preparations for many years.

The product helps reduce the occurrence of excess intestinal wind and gas in infants, and helps relieve the symptoms of infant colic. It does not contain artificial sweeteners.

**Suppliers:** Available from Symbion, Sigma, API & CH2.

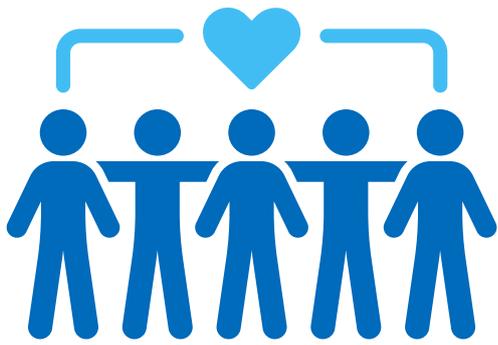
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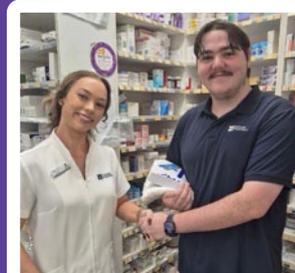
## Freedom To Be You

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# Supporting the future of pharmacy and patient care

At Ramsay Pharmacy, we're proud to welcome our 2026 intern cohort as they begin the final stage of their journey to becoming registered pharmacists. This year's interns join us for a rewarding program designed to build capability, confidence and a deep commitment to patient centred care.



As part of their welcome, each intern receives their pharmacist white coat and a personal copy of the Australian Medicines Handbook - proudly supported by our partner Viatrix. These symbolic and practical tools mark the beginning of a year filled with hands on clinical experience, medicines safety training and meaningful involvement in multidisciplinary teams.

Our interns are valued members of our healthcare community. Through strong supervision, structured learning and an environment built on genuine care and collaboration, they gain the skills needed for contemporary pharmacy practice while contributing to safe, high quality and accessible healthcare for patients and families across Australia.

As part of our commitment to intern development, Ramsay Pharmacy proudly invests \$500 per intern toward their October registration exam preparation, helping to remove barriers on their pathway to becoming fully registered pharmacists. Investing in our interns' success is investing in the future of pharmacy.

Congratulations to our 2026 interns on reaching this important milestone, we look forward to supporting them as they grow into the next generation of pharmacists.

**better care.**



Ramsay Pharmacy™

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