

## Today's issue of PD

### Pharmacy Daily today

features four pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature, plus full pages from:

- Brands Australia
- APP2026

## Single-use is back

**1 SHOT** single-use cameras are a simple add-on category for pharmacy businesses, offering good margins.

Learn more on **page five**.

## Last chance to save

**TIER 2** pricing for APP2026 ends on Sat 31 Jan, so don't miss the opportunity to save up to \$140 on full registration fees.

APP2026 runs from 12-14 Mar on the Gold Coast. See **page six** for more.

## My Health Record update welcomed

**HEALTH** Minister Mark Butler has proposed major changes to medication record keeping, with the creation of a new National Medicines Record that logs all medicines prescribed and dispensed for patients.

A consultation period is underway and will look at how the system will be set up such that it maintains a balance between accuracy and privacy concerns.

In the meantime, the Federal Government will implement mandatory reporting of all medicines-related information from telehealth prescribers, ensuring it is available to other prescribers, patients and pharmacists through their My Health Record.

This will include medicines prescribed and dispensed through online platforms, with a note on the clinical context for prescribing, to help avoid harm to patients due to medication errors, adverse drug reactions, or inappropriate use.

Doctors have welcomed the

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proposed changes, with RACGP president Dr Michael Wright stating that the government's reforms take a measured approach.

"This is a sensible measure to ensure all telehealth providers are held to the same standards as your usual GP," he said.

"Online and on-demand telehealth providers who aren't connected to your usual general practice cannot see your medical history and may not inform other health professionals of what care or prescriptions they provide by adding to your history or your My Health Record," Dr Wright explained.

Fragmented patient care and prescribing, in part due to telehealth and doctor shopping, has resulted in some patients falling through the cracks.

The proposed changes were inspired by the case of Erin Collins, who overdosed last year after stockpiling medication prescribed by multiple digital health platforms - despite warnings on her My



Health Record from hospital staff, and arrangements in place for her to pick up a controlled dose of medication from the local pharmacy each day.

The changes go beyond prescribing information and will lead to records of dispensing, another welcome development.

"This means if I write a prescription for a patient, I know they are getting it filled, or if not, can work with them to understand why," Dr Wright explained.

It is anticipated that the first phase of the National Medicines Record will be completed by Dec. KB

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## Rego open for IPE Colloquium

REGISTRATIONS are now open for the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) 2026 IPE Colloquium, to be held on Tue 05 May in Canberra.

Under the event theme, 'Empowering voices: educating health professionals for respectful and inclusive conversations', attendees will hear from mental health advocates, consumers with lived experience, and disability researchers and policymakers.

The Colloquium will showcase practical, evidence-informed approaches that strengthen communication with patients and within interprofessional teams, directly supporting improvements in standards, accreditation, and assessment across the sector.

"APC hosts the IPE Colloquium to provide a platform for greater conversation and cross-disciplinary dialogue about issues that we, as regulators, can influence through standards and accreditation," said APC CEO Bronwyn Clark.

"This year's theme recognises that inclusive communication is a core capability for safe, person-centred care," she said.

"Our education and assessment systems must equip graduates to do this consistently and confidently."

Register now to get earlybird rates [HERE](#).

Scholarships for students and interns are also available [HERE](#).

## Harm prevention services save money, lives

**COMMON** harm reduction services such as take-home naloxone, opioid agonist treatment and needle-syringe programs not only reduce negative consequences of drug use, but have economic benefits, according to research led by Burnet Institute and published in the journal *Addiction*.

An analysis of harm reduction services in the ACT suggested more than \$250 million in health and societal benefits could be delivered between 2026 and 2030, while averting dozens of overdose deaths.

The modelling also revealed that for the current package of harm reduction services, every dollar invested returns more than \$10 in benefits.

When services are scaled up, harm prevention and savings increase, with opioid agonist treatments - such as methadone or buprenorphine used to treat opioid

dependence - delivering one of the strongest returns if programs were expanded.

The modelling also examined a scenario in which more potent synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl and nitazenes, enter the ACT drug market, a trend already seen in other parts of Australia (*PD* 08 May 2025).

Under these higher-risk conditions, the cost-effectiveness of harm reduction interventions increased significantly.

The team also looked at drug consumption rooms, along the lines of the medically supervised injecting centres in Sydney and Melbourne, or nurse- or peer-led equivalents.

Drug consumption rooms were associated with fewer overdose deaths, fewer ambulance callouts and reduced hospitalisation costs from injection-related infections.



"For every dollar invested, a drug consumption room could return up to nearly \$3 in benefits through avoided overdose deaths, reduced ambulance callouts and shorter hospital stays," said Professor Paul Dietze, Burnet Program Director of Disease Elimination.

"They are a proven, cost-effective tool that reduce preventable deaths and help people engage with existing health services, while easing pressure on emergency services."

Read the paper [HERE](#). KB

## Report highlights urgent need for action on interoperability

THE Australian Medical Association (AMA) is calling for a fundamental transformation in the way health data is managed, with mandated standards to realise the potential of digital systems being able to connect and share data.

In a report launched today, the peak body said action is urgently needed if Australia is to meet the health challenges of an ageing population, changing disease patterns and increasingly complex health conditions.

"While we've seen some progress in digital interoperability,

only one in 10 specialists use My Health Record and only one in five diagnostic imaging reports are uploaded due to inefficiencies and incompatibilities between My Health Record and health IT software," said AMA vice president Assoc Prof Julian Rait.

"Currently, most healthcare data is stored in isolated databases that use proprietary software [and] the systems aren't compatible with each other.

"At the end of the day, this means there are unnecessary delays in doctors getting access to crucial patient information."

Assoc Prof Rait said a legislated authority was needed to enforce interoperability standards, including data sharing protocols between software systems.

"Australian governments have committed to digital interoperability, but we haven't moved to implementing it by establishing the legal frameworks, rules and regulations needed."

"Without this step, having systems that talk to each other, benefiting patients and doctors alike, will remain a pipe dream," he concluded.

The report is available [HERE](#).

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Studying to become a prescriber has been challenging, yet incredibly rewarding thanks to the exceptional support and mentorship from TerryWhite Chemmart.

Molly McGuire, Network Partner  
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## Editor's Choice: Bioderma launches new Photoderm Suncare range

**BIODERMA** has released its new Photoderm Suncare range, featuring three new SPF 50+ products with ultra-light textures and the brand's Sun Active Defense technology to help strengthen and protect the skin from UVA and UVB rays.

The product line-up includes the Photoderm Suncare Serum (RRP \$39.99), which is formulated with hyaluronic acid and vitamin E and aims to prevent signs of skin ageing for all skin types.

Meanwhile, the Photoderm Suncare Fluid (RRP \$34.99) provides a dry-touch finish and doubles as a primer before makeup application.

It also aims to leave skin feeling



soft, hydrated and smooth immediately after use.

Lastly, the Photoderm Suncare Lotion (RRP \$39.99) can be used every day on the face and body and provides four-hour water resistance for all skin types, especially sensitive.

According to a statement from the brand, "the Photoderm range has been uniquely formulated and manufactured for the Australian market to ensure compliance with the country's rigorous sun protection regulations".

Available in pharmacies now.

## No ordinary moisturiser

**SCIENCE-BACKED** affordable skincare brand The Ordinary has released a new formulation, Rice Lipids + Ectoin Microemulsion.

The intensely hydrating moisturiser features a lightweight, milky formula, that combines molecules that hold onto water with nourishing, occlusive ingredients like rice lipids and jojoba oil.



## Jurlique releases exclusive rose body oil



**AUSTRALIAN** skincare brand

Jurlique has launched its Exclusive Edition Rose Body Oil (RRP \$110), to keep skin soft and replenished.

Formulated with antioxidant rich actives and roses grown from the brand's farm in the Adelaide Hills, the dry oil melts into the skin and can be used as both a moisturiser and massage oil.

Other ingredients include vitamin E, safflower, macadamia and jojoba oils.

It can be used after showering or bathing with Jurlique's Rose Shower Gel, featuring natural extracts of aloe leaf and honey.

Launched in South Australia more than 35 years ago, Jurlique aims to create high-performing, natural skincare using ingredients from its biodynamic farm.

## From PA to TikTok star



**FROM** the newest brands dropping to the biggest bargains, Chemist Warehouse employee Jessica Hull is a popular social media influencer, otherwise known as Jess from Chemist Warehouse on TikTok, known for sharing her favourite beauty buys with her 43,000 followers.

Proudly describing herself as "your girl on the inside", Hull began working for the retail giant in 2011 as a pharmacy assistant, before eventually becoming a retail manager in 2013, then taking on the role of social media content specialist five years ago.

Earlier this month, Hull shared her hot tips on what to shop for during the 40% off La Roche-Posay and Cerave sale, and over the festive season, she revealed some of the best fragrance gift sets available.

Meanwhile, on What's New Wednesdays, Hull shares the newest products to hit the shelves - this week, it was Vaseline's new shimmer body oils, the upcoming Brunae Body brand, the L'Oréal Paris Infallible 24H Cushion Foundation, and more.

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## Dispensary Corner

THE use of snake venom for therapeutics is well known, dating back thousands of years in traditional Chinese medicine to modern-day enalapril, eptifibatide, tirofiban, and more.

What may surprise you, however, is that what comes out the other - non-venomous - end may also serve medicine.

Humans and most other animals body get rid of excess nitrogen by flushing it out through urine as urea, uric acid, and ammonia.

However, snakes and other reptiles transform some of those same nitrogen-based compounds into solids known as urates, which are peed out as crystals - likely evolved as an adaptation to conserve water.

Uric acid crystals in humans cause all sorts of grief in the form of kidney stones and gout.

But, while more research is needed, scientists believe that understanding the chemistry behind reptile waste could eventually help scientists develop better treatments for uric acid-related diseases.



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## Therapy aids shift from IV to SC, improves outcomes



NEW research from Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MIPS) and Halozyme Therapeutics is paving the way for a shift in how anti-cancer immunotherapy is delivered, making it less complex and painful for the patient, and potentially improving the treatment outcome for some medicines.

The study, published in *Cancer Immunology Research*, addressed a current challenge in the delivery of monoclonal antibody immunotherapies, which typically require high doses or volumes to be effective and, as a result, are infused intravenously.

However, patients would prefer subcutaneous administration, as it is more convenient and less painful, but this method is often not possible due to the high volume required to be administered.

To counter this, Halozyme Therapeutics developed a recombinant version of an enzyme called hyaluronidase.

When co-administered in a subcutaneous injection, hyaluronidase transiently but almost immediately, breaks down one of the structural components of the space below the skin (hyaluronan) that restricts the

subcutaneous injection of large volumes, thereby making an intravenous to subcutaneous transition possible.

While using hyaluronidase to facilitate subcutaneous injection is not new, what has not been described before is whether administering with hyaluronidase might actually improve therapy rather than just more convenient.

"We show here, for the first time, that for some treatments that help the immune system fight cancer, when they are co-administered subcutaneously with hyaluronidase, they are indeed more effective and hyaluronidase is able to 'boost'

the benefit of subcutaneous administration," said co-lead author of the study, Professor Chris Porter.

Co-lead author of the study, Dr Gracia Gracia, said that this approach (subcutaneous injection with hyaluronidase) helps treatments to reach the lymphatic system, where immune responses are generated.

"Because the lymphatic system plays an important role in certain cancers - particularly those involving tumor-draining lymph nodes - delivering treatment directly to this system may be a promising therapeutic approach."

The study is available [HERE](#). KB

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