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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

Injectable drugs app launches

TODAY marks the launch of the 10th edition of the Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook (AIDH10) app (PD 05 Jun), featuring a new Infusion Rate Calculator to support frontline health professionals who prepare or administer injectable medicines.

The tool aims to streamline complex point-of-care workflows and support more efficient face-to-face patient care by reducing the need for multi-step calculations.

Meanwhile, the app has been completely redesigned, offering enhanced search functionality and a more intuitive, user-friendly experience.

Learn more [HERE](#).

AMA "predictably crying wolf", says Guild

IN ITS submission to the Pharmacy Board of Australia's (PBA) consultation on the endorsement for scheduled medicines for pharmacists, the Australian Medical Association (AMA) has raised concerns that pharmacists could be cleared to prescribe restricted S8 medicines with only a fraction of the clinical experience and training possessed by doctors.

The peak body highlighted that existing APC-accredited prescriber programs provide only 700-800 hours training, with just an estimated 120-150 hours of clinical experience, compared to more than 5,000 hours of training and clinical experience required by doctors to diagnose and prescribe medication.

Federal AMA president Dr Danielle McMullen said the association was concerned by the scale and pace of the PBA's proposals, and the serious risks they pose to patient safety.

"Some of the substances covered by these proposals,

such as morphine and fentanyl, carry significant potential for misuse, abuse, and addiction," Dr McMullen said, noting that doctors are extensively trained to mitigate those risks.

"The PBA proposal fails to provide sufficient evidence for the significant changes proposed, does not provide an adequate cost, risk and benefit analysis, and does too little to address concerns over conflicts of interest.

"These are fundamental flaws in a process that fails to recognise that high-quality health care is about much more than prescribing, and that extensive training and clinical experience is a fundamental part of ensuring a patient gets the care they need," she concluded.

In response, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia pointed out that as patients wait days or weeks to see a GP, delaying diagnosis and treatment, the greatest risk to patients is not receiving care at all.

"The AMA is attempting to



conflate pharmacist prescribing within Therapeutic Guidelines with unfettered access to all Schedule 4 and Schedule 8 medicines," the Guild said in a statement.

"That is misleading and does not reflect the reality of the services currently being delivered across Australia," it continued.

The Guild reiterated that the programs are carefully designed, with strict clinical governance protocols, safety nets, referral pathways, and additional appropriate pharmacist training.

"Predictably, the AMA has gone out of its way to cry 'wolf!' - we have seen this playbook before," the Guild concluded. KB

Pharmacy Careers Summit 2026



The Pharmacy Careers Summit is the virtual event for pharmacists, interns, and students looking to explore career opportunities. Join Australia's top pharmacy employers, peak industry bodies and leaders for one powerful day of career inspiration, connections and practical insights. With auditorium presentations, expo halls, a live leaderboard with prizes up for grabs - PCS26 is the must-attend event of the year. It's all happening Friday, 10 July!

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Monash targets harmful meds use

MONASH University has announced the launch of a nation-wide program to give general practitioners, pharmacists and nurses the support and confidence to deprescribe high-risk medicines.

The initiative, **SUPPORT-Meds**, will first target benzodiazepines and Z-drugs prescribed for sleep in older people, and opioids for persistent noncancer pain.

It will then move on to proton pump inhibitors, antipsychotics for changed behaviours in people living with dementia, and NSAIDs and gabapentinoids for pain.

Led by clinical pharmacist Dr Emily Reeve from the Centre for Medicine Use and Safety at the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the initiative includes the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) among its key players, along with other peak professional bodies.

In addition to health professionals and other experts, consumers with lived experience have also had input in the program to ensure resources encompass a range of perspectives.

Dr Reeve said the goal is to protect Australians from adverse events that come with unnecessary or inappropriate medicines.

"We know unnecessary medicine use is prevalent across Australia, and the risks of long-term use outweigh the benefits to the individual," Dr Reeve said.

"That's why we're equipping health professionals working in primary care with the practical skills, communication strategies and resources they need to safely deprescribe certain medicines."

The program aims to bridge the gap between existing evidence-based guidelines and everyday clinical practice by providing practical, evidence-based resources.

These include consumer information about the benefits and harms of medicine, a tool to aid communication and a deprescribing algorithm for health professionals,



and an online tapering calculator.

SUPPORT-Meds will be delivered as online self-paced learning, or face-to-face, by a nationwide network of dedicated experts who will tailor the content according to health professionals' particular needs.

"By combining targeted education with evidence-based resources, we're empowering doctors, pharmacists and nurses to have confident, informed conversations with patients about when it is time to stop a medication," Dr Reeve said.

"Australia historically led the way in deprescribing, in fact the term 'deprescribing' actually first appeared in literature from Australian authors.

"Now, we are translating a decade of global research into localised action," she concluded.

The initiative is funded by a \$5 million Quality Use of Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Pathology (QUDTP) grant from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. *KB*

Call for harmonisation on kids' vaccinations

RESEARCHERS reviewing pharmacist-administered vaccinations for children and adolescents in Australia have highlighted a system characterised by a lack of national harmonisation, piecemeal funding and inconsistent workforce integration into public health campaigns, to the detriment of population health.

The team from Curtin University pointed to state and territory differences in ages of children able to be vaccinated, which vaccines can be administered and the age at which adolescent self-consent kicks in.

At one end of the accessibility spectrum are South Australia and Queensland, with no age restrictions and a broad range of vaccines that can be administered, while the Northern Territory, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia have the greatest restrictions.

The lack of harmonisation in ages and types of vaccines across jurisdictions also impacts training and continuing professional development, with training programs varying across universities and providers and requiring continuing evaluation as scope of practice evolves.

There are also inconsistencies in funding of vaccines outside of the National Immunisation Program Vaccination in Pharmacy (NIPVIP) program, where out-of-pocket costs may be covered



through state/territory-specific programs, private health insurance or not covered at all, which impact on equity.

"Despite the expanding role of Australian pharmacists in vaccine administration to children and adolescents, a lack of national harmonisation creates inconsistencies in legislation, funding and workforce integration," the authors explained in *Public Health Research and Practice*.

"These disparities impact accessibility, equity and efficiency, highlighting the need for a coordinated approach to optimise pharmacists' contributions to public health," they continued.

"Harmonising policies would enhance equity, efficiency, and resilience, ensuring pharmacists' accessibility and expertise are effectively leveraged to strengthen immunisation programs and optimise child and adolescent vaccination coverage," they concluded.

Access the paper [HERE](#). *KB*

Melatonin helps relieve chronic pain and improve sleep

MELATONIN may help relieve chronic pain, with research published today showing it has a similar effect to medications such as opioids, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and paracetamol - without the side effects.

A team from the University of Sydney analysed data from over 2,000 adults across 23 randomised controlled trials.

Participants included people with conditions such as low back pain, osteoarthritis and

fibromyalgia, as well as those recovering from surgery including joint replacements.

The analysis found that on average, melatonin reduced pain by around nine to 10 points on a 0-100 scale, a similar effect to widely used pain medications.

Studies used a range of doses, with 3mg per day the most commonly used for chronic musculoskeletal pain, and around 5-6mg per day for post-operative pain.

"Melatonin is already in people's

homes, it's inexpensive, and we know it's safe," said lead author and PhD student Kangchao Wu.

Melatonin also improved sleep quality, which the researchers said reinforced the well-established link between pain and sleep.

"For many patients, pain doesn't exist in isolation and is closely tied to poor sleep," Wu said.

"Melatonin appears to target both, which makes it particularly useful for people managing chronic pain."

Read the study [HERE](#).



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Dispensary Corner

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has come out with yet another warning about 'herbal' sexual enhancement pills that illegally contain undeclared prescription-only drugs such as sildenafil, tadalafil and dapoxetine.

"We urge consumers to exercise extreme caution when purchasing unapproved products, whether buying online or in retail stores," the regulator advised.

However, in an arguably more engaging attempt to reach public awareness, Pennsylvania pharmacist Grant Harting achieved social media fame by purchasing one such product and getting it tested.

Rhino 69 Super Long Lasting pills make claims of "time", "size" and "stamina" for up to seven days, and can be purchased over-the-counter from your friendly US service station or liquor store.

The packaging, with a rampaging rhino on the front, lists ingredients such as goji extract, deng sen extract and cinnamon bark, which seem not only harmless but ineffectual.

However, testing showed the pill contained no such contents, but instead had detectable amounts of sildenafil and tadalafil - although presumably not much, as Harting, for reasons best known to himself, took several pills to try them out and said they didn't work.

His advice to his followers was to visit a doctor rather than the service station for erectile dysfunction medicines.

Gettin' a grip on men's health in regional NSW

POLITICAL figures, sports greats and health professionals recently came together in Orange NSW to mark Men's Health Week with the inaugural Gettin'-a-Grip arm wrestling event.

The friendly competition was designed to spark conversations about men's health and encourage them to prioritise their wellbeing, with Life Pharmacy Group (LPG) pharmacists on hand to provide health checks throughout the event.

Hosted by NSW independent MP for Orange Phil Donato, guests included NSW Sports Minister Steve Kamper, former Wallabies Phil Kearns and James Grant, NSW MP Roy Butler, Federal MP Dan Repacholi, as well as local health professionals.

"This event was incredibly well received, it was community-focused

and practical, while still reinforcing a serious message that men's health matters, and the earlier we start the conversation, the better the outcomes," LPG pharmacist Jack Buckley (pictured) said.

"A lot of men may not regularly engage with the healthcare system, so pharmacy has a really important role to play in making that first step easier," he explained.

"From a Life Pharmacy Group perspective, we see community pharmacy as a trusted, accessible and private healthcare setting where men can come in without needing an appointment, have a quick conversation, and be pointed in the right direction."

The event was emceed by R U OK? board member, Leukaemia Foundation ambassador and former host of *The Living Room*, Barry



Du Bois.

Placing a strong focus on preventative health, the event encouraged men to act early through education and access to support for urological health, mental health and wellbeing, chronic disease management, blood pressure and diabetes screening, and vaccinations.

Buckley also highlighted the importance of asking questions before minor health concerns become serious. *KB*

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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