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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, including a special feature from **Pharmaceutical Press**, plus a full page from **Restin**.

Reduce errors

MEDICINESCOMPLETE can help reduce the risk of dosing errors - learn more about a free trial on **page two**.

Draft NSQHS standards out

THE Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has released a draft of the third edition of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards (NSQHS) and is conducting public consultation until 25 Sep 2026. Learn more **HERE** and have your say.

Remote pharmacists reject Grattan

THE Remote and Isolated Pharmacist Association Australia (RIPAA) has called on governments to reject the Grattan Institute's community pharmacy report (**PD** 13 Jul), warning that "blanket deregulation" could impact primary care access for people outside of metropolitan areas.

While welcoming the report's recommendations on expanding clinical integration, the peak body argued that the metropolitan-centric focus of the report does not support the needs of rural and remote communities and could result in pharmacy closures.

"It is time to stop pretending that what works in a major city suburb will work in a small rural or remote town," RIPAA President Fredrik Hellqvist said.

"Remote pharmacies are not typical retail storefronts - they are essential, multi-disciplinary health infrastructure, and in many communities across Australia, the

local pharmacy is the only resident primary healthcare provider."

RIPAA agreed with Grattan's assessment that the current Regional Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance (RPMA) is poorly targeted, but suggested it should be strictly targeted to thin-market areas and single-pharmacy communities rather than scrapped completely.

The peak body also rejected calls to replace negotiated community pharmacy agreements with an external pricing authority, saying collaborative, negotiated frameworks are vital to preserving the financial predictability and operational viability of thin-market pharmacies.

Meanwhile, location and ownership rules help protect against corporate and supermarket giants concentrating the pharmacist workforce in larger hubs.

RIPAA supported dedicated funding for non-dispensing clinical pharmacists, but suggested that



in remote areas where a GP clinic may not exist or it lacks the patient volume to sustain a clinical pharmacist, a resident community-based pharmacist model would be more appropriate.

"If you deregulate location protections and cut the negotiated margins of small rural operators, you do not create supermarket competition - you simply force the local chemist to turn off the lights," RIPAA concluded. **KB**

Get better sleep

RESTIN 2mg melatonin modified release tablets help offer a better quality sleep. Learn more on **page four**.



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Pharmaceutical Press

MEDICATION is a fundamental part of healthcare, with 1.16 billion prescription items dispensed in England alone during 2024/25.

However, the widespread use of medicines inevitably brings a risk of errors, which are a frequent and avoidable source of patient harm.

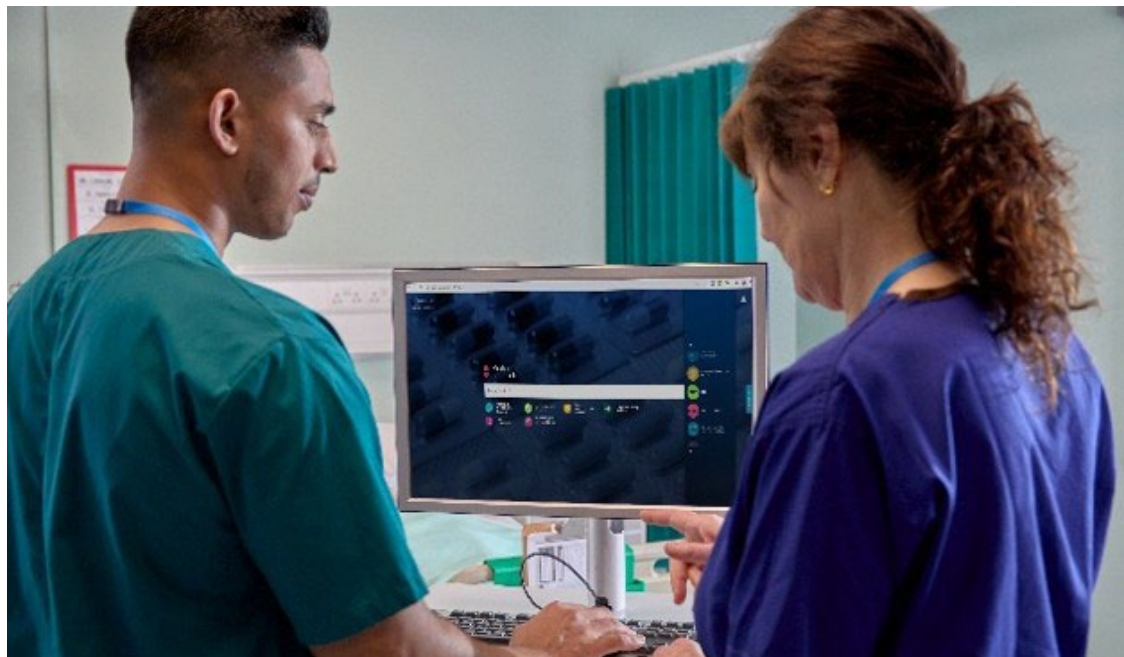
In England, an estimated 237 million medication errors occur annually, causing or contributing to 1,708 deaths and a projected cost of over £98 million each year.

The World Health Organization suggests that nearly 50% of preventable harm to patients globally is due to the inappropriate use of medicines.

Amongst these, dosing errors are extremely common and can happen at any stage of the medication process.

A wrong dose can lead to treatment failure if subtherapeutic, or toxicity if the dose is too high.

The risk of dosing errors and how to avoid them



Vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, and patients taking multiple medicines, are at increased risk.

Mistakes often involve calculation errors, particularly with injectable medicines, selecting the incorrect strength, or misinterpreting timing and frequency.

Preventing dosing errors requires robust dose-checking systems, clear communication, and a strong safety culture.

Read the full article and references online [HERE](#).

Safeguard with MedicinesComplete

BY USING reliable, evidence-based sources of prescribing information, health professionals can ensure the right dose is used, avoiding medication errors and improving overall patient care.

MedicinesComplete provides instant online access to this essential knowledge, including resources like BNF and BNF for Children, to support confident

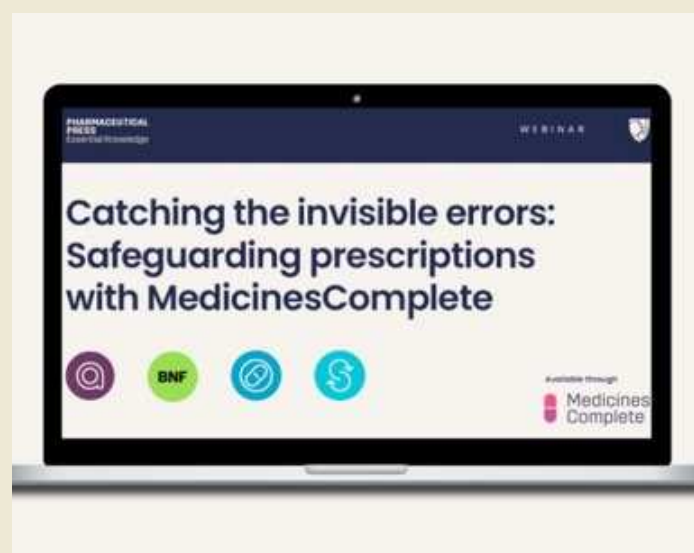
decision making.

Our mission is to empower every health professional with trusted knowledge that increases patient safety.

This pharmaceutical knowledge can also be seamlessly integrated into clinical systems.

Request a complimentary trial of MedicinesComplete today [HERE](#) to access these tools.

Join our webinar showcase



JOIN us for this webinar where we address a critical patient safety issue: medication errors.

In the UK alone, avoidable adverse drug events cost the NHS an estimated £98 million (approx A\$190 million) per year and tragically contribute to around

1,700 deaths.

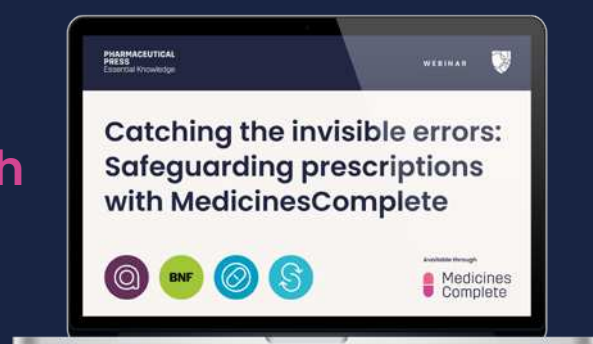
A well-recognised yet notoriously difficult to prevent subset of these incidents are Look Alike, Sound Alike or LASA errors.

Watch now online to help safeguard prescriptions with MedicinesComplete - click [HERE](#).

PHARMACEUTICAL
PRESS
Essential Knowledge

Catching the invisible errors: Safeguarding prescriptions with MedicinesComplete

Watch now





Dispensary Corner

YOUR desire for a bargain could end up hurting you, with a new investigation discovering that cheap jewellery from online marketplaces like Amazon and TikTok Shop are putting consumers at risk.

An investigation by *The Sunday Times* discovered that some earrings, rings and charms being sold online contain dangerous amounts of cadmium - a heavy metal that can affect the liver, kidneys and lungs.

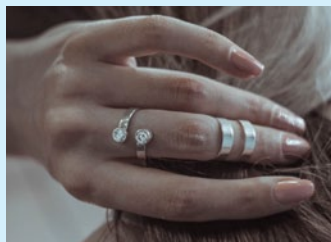
Consumers are most at risk when the item is worn against damaged or pierced skin, or if it is mouthed or swallowed by a child.

"It's one of the most potent metals to cause toxicity," Professor Christer Hogstrand, a toxicologist at King's College London, said.

Long-term exposure to cadmium can result in shortness of breath, chest pain, a metallic taste in the mouth, a cough, and flu-like symptoms.

According to *The Sunday Times*, one ring sold on Amazon that was advertised as 925 silver contained more than 9,000 times the maximum legal limit of the carcinogenic metal.

As a result of the investigation, a recall was issued and the seller was banned from the TikTok Shop for breaching policies.



"No doesn't mean never"

PHARMACY careers rarely follow a straight line, and pharmacist Kristin Xenos's professional journey is a powerful example of how curiosity, resilience, and openness to opportunity can lead to unexpected and rewarding destinations.

As she reflected in a session at the 2026 Pharmacy Careers Summit, skills compound over time, and every experience can open doors to possibilities you never imagined.

Xenos's story began while she was still in high school, working as a pharmacy assistant after being spotted by a local pharmacist while employed at a supermarket.

What started as an after-school job inspired her to enrol in a Bachelor of Pharmacy and laid the foundation for a career that would eventually span clinical practice, research, education, policy, and professional leadership.

Throughout university, Xenos balanced study with hands-on pharmacy work, allowing her to connect classroom learning with real-world patient care.

A mentor later encouraged her to move into a busier pharmacy environment, where she developed communication, time management, and workflow skills that continue to serve her today.

Although hospital pharmacy was not initially part of her plan, a university lecture sparked her interest, but she was unable to secure a hospital internship.

Rather than giving up, Xenos strengthened her experience through additional training, sought feedback on her applications, and continued applying for roles.

A six-month maternity leave position ultimately became the stepping stone that launched her hospital pharmacy career, teaching her that "no doesn't mean never".



In hospital practice, Xenos discovered a passion for infectious diseases and antimicrobial stewardship, which led her to completing a Master of Public Health and Health Management, and eventually to a policy role with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

Determined to remain connected to patient care, Xenos continued working in community pharmacy while embracing new opportunities.

She became co-host of *The Purple Pen Podcast*, pursued research through the NSW pharmacist prescribing trials, began a PhD, and took on teaching roles at the University of Newcastle.

Today, Xenos's diverse portfolio demonstrates that there is no single pathway in pharmacy, and her journey highlights the value of persistence, lifelong learning, and saying "yes" to opportunities.

"If I had told my 15-year-old self, working as an assistant in community pharmacy, that this is where I would end up, I wouldn't have believed it," Xenos said.

"But each of those opportunities came from walking through a door that opened along the way - some I planned for, many I didn't."

On-demand sessions from the Pharmacy Careers Summit are [HERE](#).

Only 25% of new meds on PBS

A **NEW** report from Medicines Australia has revealed that only 25% of medicines launched globally over the past decade have been listed for government-subsidised access in Australia, compared with 88% in the US and 46% in the UK.

The industry peak body has identified 18 medicines where "torturous processes and reduced investment in the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)" have deterred sponsors from applying for listing.

These include medicines for cancer, mental illness, cardiology, immunology, rare diseases and infectious disease, with patients required to fund the drugs themselves or make do with older, less effective ones.

Medicines Australia CEO Elizabeth de Somer said the 18 missing medicines showed Australia had "gone from a global leader to a laggard in funding new medicines".

"The real number of missing medicines is likely to be much, much higher, but these 18 medicines should be all the proof anyone needs that health standards in Australia are slipping and that is due to one thing - chronic underinvestment in the PBS," de Somer said.

The report attributed the widening access gap to a decade of underinvestment in innovative medicines through the PBS, with net investment in innovative medicines falling from 6.2% to 4.1% of the total health budget since 2015-16.

Access the report [HERE](#).

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