

Today's issue of PD

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

- **Pharmacium**
- **Willach**

Design your space

PHARMACIUM will create work spaces that reflect your working style and improve efficiencies throughout your pharmacy, with a focus on dispensary operations.

See **page four** for details.

Rethink dispensary

WILLACH Consis C provides the latest in robotic automation for a more efficient dispensary set-up.

Fully customised to your workflow, Consis C can free up space and time within your pharmacy.

Learn more on **page five**.

IPA holds development academy

PHARMACISTS and other professionals from the Independent Pharmacies Australia (IPA) network have gathered in Sydney this week for the 2026 Pharmacist Academy, featuring educational sessions and hands-on workshops.

In welcoming delegates from around the country, IPA managing director Steve Kastrinakis (**pictured**) spoke of the challenges and opportunities shaping the future of the industry as it evolves from a dispensing model to a healthcare services model.

Drawing upon the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's strategic 10-year plan *Towards 2035* (**PD** 06 Aug 2025), Kastrinakis highlighted five key points, encouraging delegates to engage with the Guild and the Federal Government's vision for the future of pharmacy.

First and foremost was the role of community pharmacy as a pillar of the health system, with IPA set to become neighbourhood health hubs.

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Off-label meds guidance updated

THE Council of Australian Therapeutic Advisory Groups (CATAG) has updated the Guiding Principles for the off-label use of medicines, supporting a contemporary, evidence-informed and patient-centred approach to the safe and responsible use of medicines off-label.

The guidelines provide a nationally consistent framework around whether an off-label use is appropriate, based on the strength of available evidence and the clinical circumstances, and also looks at issues such as shared decision-making and informed consent.

A consumer counselling tool to support health professionals discuss the use of off-label medicines with patients is available as well.

Access them **HERE**.



With fallout from the Grattan report still fresh, Kastrinakis confirmed the importance of independent pharmacies and the role of location and ownership rules in ensuring rural communities have a pharmacy.

Expanded scope was the third pillar, with IPA supporting its members to take on additional training (**PD** 24 Apr).

Future-proofing the profession by making the most of AI and other technologies and acting to ensure workforce sustainability rounded out the big ideas.

The Pharmacist Academy wraps up today. **KB**

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AMR rising in kids

ANTIMICROBIAL resistance (AMR) in children is rising globally and will worsen over the next decade, threatening the effectiveness of last-line antibiotics, according to new research led by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

The international team analysed more than 106,000 infection samples from children aged up to 18 years, across 82 countries between 2004 and 2022.

It was found that antibiotic resistance increased over time in every region, driven largely by Gram-negative bacteria responsible for severe infections such as sepsis and pneumonia.

Resistance rose most sharply to critical antibiotics used when first-line treatments fail, with babies and children in intensive care and countries with fewer healthcare resources most affected.

The team said the findings highlighted a widening gap between recommended antibiotic use and real-world effectiveness, reinforcing the urgent need for improved surveillance, targeted antimicrobial stewardship and better access to effective antibiotics for children.

Read the paper [HERE](#).

Antibiotic use out of control

NEARLY all countries are overusing strong antibiotics that contribute most to antibiotic resistance, while not enough people are receiving the specific antibiotic treatments they need, according to international research published today in *The Lancet Public Health*.

Using the World Health Organization (WHO) groupings for antibiotics based on benefits, harms and the potential for resistance, the team set out to develop a method to estimate optimal antibiotic use specific to countries and territories.

Using this method, they found that nearly three-quarters (72%) of countries were using more antibiotics overall than needed, and almost every country (99%) was overusing 'Watch' antibiotics, defined by the WHO as those that should be saved for conditions where simpler antibiotics will not do the job.

At the same time, more than half of countries and territories with available real-world data were not using enough 'Reserve' antibiotics - designated by the WHO as last-resort treatments - suggesting patients with life-threatening drug-resistant infections might not be receiving the treatments they need.

Low- and middle-income countries, which face heavier



burdens of infectious disease and drug resistance, need proportionally more of the specialised 'Watch' and 'Reserve' antibiotics than wealthier nations, whereas higher-income countries are currently using these types of antibiotics the most.

The team also found that 60% of countries were still using antibiotics in the WHO's 'not recommended' group - those it considers should no longer be prescribed due to lack of supporting evidence and mainly comprising fixed dose combinations or multiple antibiotics.

The authors said that the framework can give countries a practical tool to assess whether their antibiotic use is broadly appropriate for their situation and address both overuse and the wrong use of certain antibiotics.

They also called for national policies to both reduce unnecessary prescribing and improve access for patients who genuinely need these medicines.

Read the paper [HERE](#). KB

Changes to nitisinone access

THE Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has announced that from 01 Aug, nitisinone (Orfadin, Menarini Australia) will become available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) under the Section 100 Highly Specialised Drugs Program for the treatment of hereditary tyrosinaemia type 1 under certain circumstances.

Patients currently undergoing treatment with the medication under the Life Saving Drugs Program (LSDP) will be transitioned to the PBS before it ends on 31 Oct, and LSDP access will cease for new patients from 01 Aug.

Orfadin can be dispensed by community pharmacists or through public and private hospital where patients are eligible.

Patients have been advised to contact their chosen pharmacy to confirm availability and ongoing supply arrangements.



Waist size better than BMI for obesity risks

TAKING waist-based measurements along with BMI to determine overweight and obesity could prevent hundreds of thousands of deaths globally, according to research presented at the recent International Congress on Obesity 2026 in Mexico.

The use of waist measurements was recommended by the Lancet Commission (*PD* 15 Jan 2025) to characterise the location of excess body fat, and the new study investigated whether this method is better at identifying individuals at high risk of heart disease than BMI alone.

Using data from the UK Biobank study, researchers looked at

heart disease outcomes in people with clinical obesity, defined as excess body fat with long-term obesity related conditions, and preclinical obesity, which was excess body fat with no obesity-related conditions.

Individuals with clinical obesity were much more likely to develop or die from cardiovascular disease than those without obesity, while those with preclinical obesity were also at higher risk despite appearing to be in good health.

The study also found that waist measurements were more accurate at predicting cardiovascular disease than BMI.

DID YOU KNOW?

That we regularly publish Health Professional only editions of *Pharmacy Daily*?

[CLICK HERE TO UPDATE YOUR DETAILS](#)





Dispensary Corner

IN THE not-too-distant future, your toilet seat might be able to catch a health problem before your doctor does.

German firm Hamberger Medical has developed a computerised toilet seat containing four electrodes that perform an electrocardiogram (ECG), measuring the heart's electrical activity.

The scientists behind the invention hope that it can be used to help detect atrial fibrillation (AF), an abnormal heart rhythm that is a major cause of stroke, and often goes undetected until it is too late.

The battery-powered seat records heart activity for 30 seconds when someone sits down on it, with the results sent to a smartphone app and then forwarded to a GP.

Before you raise your eyebrow in scepticism, the company has already conducted a clinical trial comparing the loo seat ECG with a conventional one, where electrodes are attached to the chest, and found that it was just as effective at detecting heart rhythm abnormalities.

Don't get too excited though - the innovative seats are only available in Germany (at least for now) and will set you back nearly \$2,000.

Hamberger Medical is not the first tech firm to think of combining toilet seats with health-monitoring systems.

Other companies, like Texas-based Throne Science, have developed gadgets that can clip onto loo bowls to analyse all waste products.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

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