

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today comprises three pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature.

Paid placements for pharmacy students

PRIME Minister Anthony Albanese has announced that pharmacy students will receive payment for practical placements of \$338.60 per week from 01 Jul 2027.

The payment is already available to teaching, nursing, midwifery and social work students, with the expanded scheme also capturing clinical psychology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology, paramedicine, radiography, rehabilitation therapies, audiology and podiatry students.

The Health Services Union has welcomed the announcement, saying it was a "hard-fought victory" for students.

"Paid placements are a practical investment in the future of Medicare and the health, aged care and disability services Australians rely on," HSU national secretary Dustin Halse said.

"When students can afford to complete their training, more graduates enter the workforce and more patients get the care they need."

The payments have not been extended to medical students, who undertake 2,000 hours of unpaid clinical placements.

Pharmacists warned on telehealth weight pill scripts

AS ORAL versions of blockbuster weight loss drugs loom on the horizon, a legal expert has warned that an expected rapid uptake by Australians reticent to use injectables could increase scrutiny of online prescribing platforms, particularly around patient assessments, verification processes and clinical decision-making.

And dispensing pharmacists may also face increased oversight, Astrid Rivalland, practice leader at commercial law firm LegalVision, told *Pharmacy Daily*.

Telehealth platforms need to prove they are providing healthcare, not simply processing demand for a prescription, Rivalland explained.

"The main risks are inadequate clinical assessment, unsafe prescribing, unlawful advertising, poor follow-up and weak patient verification," she said.

Rivalland noted that providers cannot rely on self-reported patient information without proper clinical assessment, and a patient giving inaccurate health information does not automatically remove legal responsibility from providers.

Meanwhile, pharmacists still have independent professional duties when dispensing drugs prescribed through telehealth, she said.

"They are not expected to re-diagnose the patient, but they should be alert to whether the prescription appears safe, lawful and clinically appropriate.

"That may include checking dosage, interactions, duplicate therapy, supply frequency, patient counselling needs and whether anything about the prescription

raises a red flag."

Rivalland noted the risk for pharmacists increases if online prescribing creates high-volume dispensing arrangements where scripts are processed without proper review.

"The Pharmacy Board and Ahpra have warned against arrangements that compromise independent clinical judgement, including

exclusive supply arrangements between prescribers, pharmacists and third-party platforms," she said.

"If a pharmacist ignores obvious warning signs, participates in questionable advertising, or dispenses in a way that prioritises volume over patient safety, they could face professional conduct action, complaints, or broader regulatory scrutiny," she warned. *KB*

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References: 1. Greife KA, Barnes TM. Increased bioavailability of hydrocortisone dissolved in a cream base. *Australas J Dermatol.* 2015; 56(2):e30–e34. 2. van Zuuren EJ, Fedorowicz Z, Christensen R, Lavrijen APM, Arents BWM. Emollients and moisturisers for eczema (Review). *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2017, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD012119. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD012119.pub2.

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Dedicated to Care

Editor's Choice: Chemist Warehouse celebrates return of Lipstick Day

INTERNATIONAL Lipstick Day is returning to Chemist Warehouse today as part of its long-running partnership with Revlon, with \$2 from selected lip products purchased donated to not-for-profit organisation Look Good Feel Better to support cancer research.

This year, purchases of Super Lustrous lipsticks at Chemist Warehouse are part of the campaign, as well as Super Lustrous The Gloss, Glimmer Gloss and Lip Oil products.

The donation period will run between now and 29 Aug.

Look Good Feel Better is a free national cancer support program that has assisted over 200,000 women, men and teens



undergoing cancer treatment, offering advice and support on how to manage physical, psychological and social impacts of treatment.

Revlon has also donated tens of thousands of products to the organisation's Confidence Kits, enabling access to the program for thousands of products.

Bioderma's new lotion



FRENCH beauty skincare brand Bioderma has expanded its Atoderm range with a new ultra-light moisturiser for dry to very dry, sensitive skin.

Developed in collaboration with Bioderm Korea, the Atoderm Facial Lotion (RRP \$39.99) combines K-beauty textures with Bioderma's expertise in dermatology.

The main ingredient within the lotion's formulation is Bioderma's patented Skin Protect Complex, which combines niacinamide with two biomimetic sugars that help strengthen the skin barrier and deeply nourish the skin.

Other ingredients include the plant-derived saccharide isomerate for immediate hydration, as well as glycerin and squalane to lock in moisture.

Also featured in the Atoderm range are a shower oil (RRP \$46.99), intensive balm (RRP \$48.99), and an anti-itching spray (RRP \$32.99).

Happy Kat strikes Gold

POSTPARTUM recovery brand Happy Kat is now an official Gold Cross Partner of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

As part of the partnership, Happy Kat and Gold Cross will work on member-focused communications, promotional opportunities for participating pharmacies, and consumer awareness activities around the postpartum brand's products.



Alchemist's Cabinet ready for retail expansion



AUSTRALIAN natural supplement brand Alchemist's Cabinet is preparing for the next phase of retail expansion.

According to the business, Alchemist's Cabinet has experienced increased retail interest, although founder Cassandra Hall is keen to maintain sustainable growth.

"It's about growing the right way - with the right partners - and protecting what made the brand meaningful in the first place," Hall explained.

Alchemist's Cabinet offers liquid minerals, colloidal mineral concentrates and topical products, including liquid magnesium (RRP \$25) for energy generation and muscle function and colloidal silver (RRP \$12.50) for wound care.

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Beauty & Wellness
by Pharmacy Daily



Dispensary Corner

A PHARMACY employee has been praised for the way they handled a bizarre confrontation with a customer at a CVS store in the US.

Washington woman Kayla Nelson was waiting in a long queue at her local pharmacy when she witnessed a man had become irate over the fact that he had to stand in the feminine products aisle while waiting for his prescription.

According to Nelson's retelling of the incident, which she shared on TikTok, the man loudly complained that customers "shouldn't have to stand" in that section.

The pharmacy worker behind the counter calmly addressed the customer, pointing out that the floor layouts are set by corporate policy.

"We don't make that choice," the employee explained.

Unsatisfied, the man demanded to be relocated, saying "can we just go to the next aisle?"

The worker's response effectively shut him down: "Well, that's the sexual products."

Reflecting on the man's meltdown, Nelson could not help but laugh.

"Is that wrong? Is that inappropriate to stand in the feminine products aisle?"

"Nobody else is paying that close of attention to it."

"That was just wild."

Perhaps those who are offended by standard hygiene products should make their pharmacy orders online and select home delivery...

Call for targeted changes to ownership rules

THE Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has called for targeted reform of pharmacy ownership rules, stating that the current ownership restrictions are not working as claimed, particularly in rural and remote communities and outer suburban areas.

Drawing upon Monash University research published earlier this year showing that Australians in some areas lack reliable access to essential dispensing services, the College said exemptions or alternative ownership models for communities where pharmacy services are at risk or unavailable should be explored.

RACGP Rural Chair Associate Professor Michael Clements stated ownership restrictions designed for cities are creating barriers to care in communities already struggling to attract and retain healthcare professionals.

"Where communities cannot attract a pharmacist willing or able to purchase a pharmacy business, the current rules can leave patients

with limited or no local dispensing services," he said.

"In these circumstances, we need practical solutions that put patient care first."

Assoc Prof Clements pointed to the range of ownership structures under which medical practices operate, suggesting pharmacies could adopt similar models.

"Many rural GPs choose to work in practices without wanting to own the business themselves - the same flexible thinking should be applied to pharmacy services where communities are at risk of missing out," he said.

"If a suitably qualified pharmacist can be employed within a healthcare service that meets all regulatory and professional requirements, we should be asking how we can support access for patients rather than maintaining barriers that no longer reflect the realities of rural healthcare."

The RACGP highlighted experiences from rural Western Australia, where some GP-



led services have established dispensaries to support communities without pharmacies.

However, it noted that these services often operate without access to the same funding mechanisms and support available to traditional pharmacy businesses.

"Governments should be looking at ways to help these communities maintain services, not allowing outdated ownership restrictions to stand in the way."

The College urged governments to work with rural doctors, pharmacists and communities to identify reforms that improve access to medicines while maintaining appropriate professional oversight, quality standards, and patient safety protections. KB

AdPha and NAPSA renew MoU, supporting future workforce

ADVANCED Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) and the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) have signed a new two-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), reinforcing their shared commitment to supporting pharmacy students as they embark on their professional careers.

The renewed partnership will expand opportunities for students to explore and progress through diverse career pathways, including residency programs, career events, mentoring, portfolio-based practice recognition through ANZCAP, and enhanced

connections between pharmacy schools and hospital pharmacy departments via AdPha's state and territory Branches.

AdPha president Assoc Prof Tom Simpson said the renewed MoU comes at an exciting time for students entering a rapidly evolving profession.

"As medicines become increasingly complex, pharmacists have more opportunities than ever to develop advanced skills and pursue specialist areas of practice," he said.

"Together, we're ensuring students have access to the guidance, connections and

opportunities they'll need to confidently navigate their careers from the outset."

NAPSA president Mia Avram welcomed the continuing collaboration and the access to mentorship, professional networks and career development it will provide.

"As the peak representative body for pharmacy students, NAPSA is committed to ensuring every student has the opportunity to thrive beyond graduation," Avram said.

"We look forward to supporting the next generation of pharmacists," she concluded.