

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a **Fact Sheet** from **Jext**.

Treat anaphylaxis

BIOELECT has released **Jext**, a new adrenaline auto-injector for the emergency treatment of anaphylaxis.

Jext is PBS-listed and a-flagged - see the fact sheet on **p4** for more information.

MM2026 abstracts close today

ABSTRACT submissions for Medicines Management 2026 (MM2026) close today at 11:59 AEST.

Whether you are sharing original research, a pharmacy practice initiative or a case report, now is the time to act. For more info click **HERE**.

Vale former *Pharmacy Daily* MD Jenny Piper

THE *Pharmacy Daily* family is today mourning former managing director Jenny Piper (nee Harrison), who died yesterday after a two-year battle with a rare cancer just four days after her 60th birthday.

Known to many **PD** readers, Jenny was a pharmacist who graduated from Sydney University in 1993, and before taking on the management of the Business Publishing Group (BPG) alongside husband Bruce, she worked in a range of community pharmacies in the Sydney CBD and suburbs, as well as spending some time as a pharma rep.

In addition to managing the

day-to-day operations of BPG, Jenny helped grow the group's portfolio, with other titles including ***Travel Daily***, ***Cruise Weekly*** and ***travelBulletin***.

She is survived by BPG's editor-at-large Bruce Piper as well as adult children Sarah, Anna and Ben, all of whom worked in the business at various stages.



Portrait of Jenny Piper, former Managing Director of Pharmacy Daily.

Pharmacist prescribing to save \$1b

A **NEW** analysis has revealed that pharmacist prescribing could unlock \$1 billion in savings, free 10 million GP visits and prevent 30,000 hospitalisations annually.

The modelling by HTANALYSTS demonstrates the value of expanded scope of practice, with Pharmacy Guild of Australia national president Treat Twomey saying it should be a catalyst for the Federal Government to make the most of community pharmacy.

"This modelling shows that empowering specially trained pharmacists to prescribe for appropriate conditions isn't just good for patients - it's good for the entire health system," Professor Twomey said.

"It improves access, reduces wait times and delivers more than a billion dollars in annual savings."

HTANALYSTS' Irene Deltetto, principal, strategy and social impact said: "Behind every dollar in this analysis is a patient who waited too long to see a GP, or a

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hospitalisation that could have been avoided.

"HTANALYSTS modelled that \$21 billion in overall economic impact would be created across just four conditions through pharmacist autonomous prescribing.

"What's needed now is the regulatory and funding architecture to make this model permanent and nationally consistent," she added.

The Guild is now calling on the government to implement the three recommendations made in the report: nationally consistent prescribing powers, sustainable funding to support access, and connected digital health systems.

"Every day pharmacists assess the safety, appropriateness and clinical need of medicines prescribed to patients," the report states.

"The right national frameworks will mean pharmacist prescribing can transform access to safe and effective healthcare." **KB**

Saving muscle mass in weight loss

A **NEW** drug called apitegromab may help to preserve lean body mass while taking weight loss drugs, according to a clinical trial published in *Nature Medicine*.

GLP-1 receptor agonists such as tirzepatide (Mounjaro) can help people lose a substantial amount of body weight, but some of this weight loss can come from lean body mass.

The team from AdventHealth Translational Research Institute in the US tested apitegromab in a clinical trial involving 102 adults taking Mounjaro, and found those who received the drug lost 1.9kg less lean mass than those taking the placebo.

However, they noted that the trial was relatively small, included more than 80% female participants, and excluded people with significant cardiometabolic conditions, including diabetes.

Apitegromab is an investigational drug first developed to help improve motor function in people living with spinal muscular atrophy.

Read the study **HERE**.

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Pharmacists awarded in King's Birthday honours

SEVERAL pharmacists have been recognised in the 2026 King's Birthday Honours announced yesterday (**PD** breaking news), with pharmacy peak bodies congratulating the recipients.

Emeritus Professor Michael Roberts of Queensland has been recognised with an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for his distinguished service to pharmaceutical science and medicine, the advancement of topical drug delivery and clinical toxicology research.

In addition to academic positions at the University of Queensland, University of South Australia, Adelaide University and the University of Canberra, he has also held roles with the Federal

Government, the Australian College of Pharmacy, and other health and medicines peak bodies.

The author of more than 600 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters, Professor Roberts has been listed on Clarivate Highly Cited Researchers in Pharmacology and Toxicology.

Professor Sarah Roberts-Thomson, also of Queensland, was presented the Member of the Order of Australia (AM), for her significant service to pharmaceutical medicine, academic leadership and tertiary education.

Currently Deputy Dean (Academic) at the University of Sydney's Faculty of Medicine and Health following a long career with the University of Queensland, Prof Roberts-Thomson has authored or co-authored over 100 articles and over 200 papers.

She is also chair of the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC), having served as deputy chair from 2020-2024 and non-executive director since 2018.

APC CEO Bronwyn Clark extended her congratulations to Professor Roberts-Thomson, acknowledging the significance of her leadership and service to pharmacy in Australia and to academia.

"I am absolutely delighted that Sarah's outstanding contribution has been recognised," Clark said.

"She has been a valued and influential part of APC since 2018 - we are so fortunate to have her strategic insight, integrity and leadership guiding us," she added.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) NSW branch

committee member, Nicholas Logan, has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), for his service to the pharmacy profession.

Owner and pharmacist of Nick Logan Pharmacist Advice since 1995, he was crowned the PSA Australian Pharmacist of the Year 2009, while his pharmacy was recognised by the Guild as Australian Pharmacy of the Year in the same year.

Finally, Dr Constantine George Berbatis, from Western Australia, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), for service to the community of Perth, particularly with the Greek community.

PSA national president, Professor Mark Naunton, acknowledged the previous and ongoing contributions of each recipient to the pharmacy profession.

"On behalf of PSA and the pharmacy profession, I would like to extend my congratulations to Emeritus Professor Michael Roberts, Professor Sarah Roberts-Thomson and Nicholas Logan, on this prestigious achievement and for their ongoing services to our workforce," Prof Naunton said.

"Many Western Australians would recognise Dr Constantine Berbatis and be familiar with his contributions to the pharmacy workforce - I am happy to see his dedication recognised and



congratulate him on receiving an OAM," he added.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia national president Prof Trent Twomey also acknowledged the recipients' exceptional contribution to community pharmacy, pharmaceutical science, research, education and patient care.

"These honours recognise Australians who have made an extraordinary contribution to the health and wellbeing of their communities through pharmacy practice, research, education and leadership," Prof Twomey said.

"From frontline patient care through to world-leading pharmaceutical research and academic leadership, these recipients demonstrate the enormous contribution pharmacy makes to Australia's healthcare system," he continued.

"On behalf of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, I congratulate all recipients recognised in this year's King's Birthday Honours and thank them for their outstanding service to patients, communities and the profession," he concluded. *KB*

Mayne gets \$14.4m payment

MAYNE Pharma Group has confirmed it has received a total of \$14,410,714.49 from Cosette Pharmaceuticals in accordance with instructions from the Supreme Court of NSW (**PD** 25 May).

The amount includes Mayne Pharma's legal costs, costs associated with Mayne Pharma's application for costs, and interest.

Mayne also informed investors in an ASX statement that Cosette's appeal against the Oct 2025 judgement was heard last week, and a decision has been reserved.

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Free resources for small business

From 1 July 2026, super must be paid on payday.



COSBOA's free Small Business PEAK program gives small business owners the expert guidance, tools and training to get it right, without the cost. Whether for your own business or someone in your network, PEAK is the practical support small business needs right now.



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Dispensary Corner

MATCHING faces to photos in ID situations can be challenging - especially for those of us who are borderline prosopagnosic - but researchers at Adelaide University and the University of Stirling (UK) have come to the rescue with a simple way to improve face-matching accuracy that doesn't require training, AI or specialist expertise.

The trick, they say, is to take another look. Study participants viewed the same 80 pairs of unfamiliar faces three separate times and decide whether the photographs showed the same person or two different people. Researchers then combined participants' responses across all three attempts and compared the results with their performance on each individual attempt. Researchers found that while participants achieved around 80% accuracy each time they completed the task, they often gave different answers to the same pairs of faces. Combining two decisions made by the same person improved accuracy by around 6%, while combining three decisions improved performance by around 8% - a result comparable to gains achieved through specialist training.

High use of chemical restraint

AUSTRALIAN research looking at the use of chemical restraint in hospital inpatient settings revealed that around one in six patients were prescribed a medicine for the purpose of chemical restraint, with one in 10 having it administered.

The team from the University of Queensland analysed patient records from the Metro North Health, the largest health network in Queensland which includes six major hospitals.

Chemical restraint was defined as "a form of restrictive practice that involves the use of medicine or a chemical substance for the primary purpose of influencing a person's behaviour but does not include the use of medicine primarily prescribed for the treatment of, or to enable treatment of, a diagnosed mental health disorder, a physical condition, or for end-of-life care".

Medicines included all antipsychotics, ketamine, propofol and all sedatives/hypnotics.

Mental health patients were the group most likely to be prescribed medicines for the purpose of chemical restraint (83%), followed by sub-acute medical patients (16%).

The most frequently prescribed medicines were olanzapine (29%), lorazepam (26%) and diazepam (17%), and these were on an as-needed basis.

Almost four in 10 (38%) were under a treatment authority (receiving involuntary treatment

under a legal order) with consent documented in only 6% of the remaining cases.

Before this study, existing chemical restraint research in hospital settings was either limited to specific patient populations, such as psychiatric care or aged care settings.

The authors pointed out that while anticipatory screening was high, behavioural screening and monitoring suggested the judicious use of medicines for chemical restraint.

Emergency department presentations were not included in the analysis, and the researchers cautioned against extrapolating the findings to this patient cohort.

The authors pointed out that the study did not explore the clinical decision-making processes by prescribers of chemical restraint.

"Gaining insights into these processes could be beneficial for understanding how the perceived benefits and potential adverse effects of medications influence clinical decisions for managing patients exhibiting challenging behaviours," they said.

The team also raised concerns about the lack of consent in most cases, and stated, "This omission contrasts with the standards of care expected within Australian hospitals, where informed consent is a fundamental component of patient care." KB

Off-label quetiapine raises concerns

RESEARCH led by Flinders University has found that off-label use of quetiapine (Seroquel) to treat insomnia significantly impaired alertness and driving performance the following day.

Approved for schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, the drug is increasingly prescribed at low doses for insomnia and anxiety because of its sedative effects.

The study in 15 adults found that while it had a modest effect on sleep quality and reduced obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA) severity compared to placebo, it also caused slower reaction times, more lapses in attention and poorer steering control during a driving simulation - markers that are strongly linked to real-world crash risk.

"What was particularly concerning is that some people didn't feel especially sleepy the next day, despite performing worse on objective tests," said lead author, Cricket Fauska.

"That mismatch between how people feel and how they actually function poses a serious safety risk, especially when it comes to driving."

The researchers called for better screening for OSA and clear warnings about next-day impairment - the study is [HERE](#).



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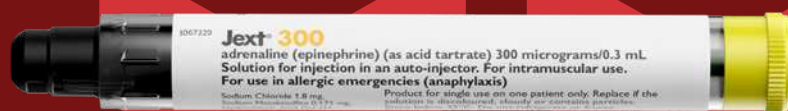
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The correct use of adrenaline auto-injectors requires training and recall of administration steps may decline over time. Device design and clarity of instructions can influence successful use.⁶



'How to use' video

Studies have shown that incorrect use of adrenaline auto-injectors is common, highlighting the importance of regular training and familiarity with device administration.⁶

Training resources for Jext[®] administration are available through ASCIA's materials: www.allergy.org.au/hp/anaphylaxis/how-to-give-devices#jext

Summary Of The Safety Profile

Temporary side effects of adrenaline can include increased heart rate, trembling, and paleness.⁷

There are no absolute contraindications to Jext[®] administration in suspected anaphylaxis.³

PBS INFORMATION: This product is listed on the PBS. Refer to www.pbs.gov.au for full authority information



Please read the full Product Information before recommending Jext[®] Full Product Information for Jext[®] via the QR code.

References: 1. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) JEXT JNR 150 (ARTG 401800) and JEXT 300 (ARTG 401801) 2. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Schedule www.pbs.gov.au 3. Jext[®] 300 & Jext[®] 150 (adrenaline [epinephrine] acid tartrate) Approved Product Information, 2026 4. EpiPen[®] Approved Product Information; <https://www.tga.gov.au/resources/artg/42978> 5. Data on file. Jext[®] European Marketing Authorisation and launch history 6. Umasunthar T, et al. Patients' ability to use adrenaline auto-injectors: a systematic review. Allergy. 2015;70(7):855-863 7. Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA). ASCIA Guidelines – Acute Management of Anaphylaxis. Available at <https://www.allergy.org.au/hp/anaphylaxis/acute-management-guidelines> (June 2026)

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