



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

PRIME extends nominations

THE deadline for the 2026 Pharmaceutical Research Innovation and Marketing Excellence (PRIME) Awards has been extended to 26 Jun, with entrants urged to finalise submissions now.

For the Pharmacist's Choice: Pharma Company of the Year award, pharmacists are invited to nominate and vote for ethical, OTC and device companies they feel support QUM, are innovative and/or work towards improving patient care and outcomes.

Other awards include prescription or OTC Product Launch of the Year and Marketing Campaign of the Year - learn more [HERE](#).

TWC MasterClass shaping the future of care

TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) pharmacists and pharmacy professionals have gathered for MasterClass 2026, the brand's national pharmacist education program under this year's theme, 'Shaping the future of care through every interaction'.

As pharmacists move beyond dispensing to play a larger role in frontline healthcare delivery, this year's program explores how pharmacists can work differently, use technology more effectively, and free up time for higher-value patient care without compromising safety, quality or trust.

A major focus of this year's program is helping pharmacists create more time for care, looking at how technology, workflow redesign and practice change can support pharmacists to spend more time with patients.

The program will cover care from children through to support for older Australians, with practical clinical sessions in wound care,

women's health, consumer care, and safety and quality.

TWC general manager Michael Beaumont said MasterClass was about giving pharmacists the capability and confidence to lead in a changing healthcare environment.

"Community pharmacy is changing quickly," Beaumont said.

"The opportunity now is for pharmacists to step further into care, but that only works when they have the right clinical support, systems and confidence behind them.

"MasterClass is where that becomes practical - it helps pharmacists build capability, challenge old ways of working and think differently about how every customer interaction can become a better healthcare interaction."

MasterClass commenced yesterday and runs through today and tomorrow.

MEANWHILE, TWC has launched YOOBIC, a new central platform to simplify communication, improve



access to information and support stronger in-store execution, across its national network.

The platform brings task management, communication, learning and knowledge resources into one streamlined ecosystem, with the aim of giving pharmacy teams clearer priorities and faster access to the information they need day to day.

It also features the AI-powered 'Ask Carey', which helps team members quickly search knowledge centre content, guides and resources, and assists them through raising a support ticket if they are unable to find what they need. *KB*

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PSA seeking 2026 vax ambassador

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced that expressions of interest are now open for the 2026 PSA Vaccination Ambassador, who will act as a representative and spokesperson supporting the association's vaccination advocacy objectives.

Supported by GSK and Pfizer, the program recognises pharmacist leaders who are advancing vaccination access, uptake and advocacy within their communities and across the country.

The ambassador will receive media training, and mentoring and support, with other benefits including fully sponsored attendance at PSA26.

Submit EOIs [HERE](#) by 30 Jun.

Antimicrobial QUM learning updates

THE Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has released updated antimicrobial modules on the QUM Learning platform.

The refreshed suite includes a module on urinary tract infection (UTI) in residential aged care and two case study modules looking at the role of antibiotics in otitis media and UTIs.

Designed for pharmacists, early career medical practitioners and nurses, the modules can be found [HERE](#).

GBMA to front High Court

THE Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA) has been permitted to intervene as a 'friend of the court' in a High Court case starting today that could have major implications for pharmaceutical patent term extensions in Australia.

The case concerns Otsuka Pharmaceuticals and Sun Pharma, where Sun Pharma challenged the validity of Otsuka's application for a patent extension on its controlled-release aripiprazole product (an antipsychotic used in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder).

In a judgement handed down in Dec last year, the Federal Court ruled that formulation patents - as distinct from active pharmaceutical ingredient patents - are not eligible for an Australian patent term extension.

It effectively means that formulations, dosing, and delivery innovations can still be patented for the standard 20-year term, but cannot be extended a further five years, unlike active ingredient patents.

In Mar, Otsuka was granted special leave to appeal to the High Court.

The Federal Court's decision was lauded for removing one of many barriers standing in the way of a generic product entering the market, with potential benefits for health system expenditure and access to medicines more broadly.

In welcoming the opportunity to represent generic and biosimilar medicine suppliers, GBMA independent chair Professor Jane Halton said the case had implications extending beyond



the individual medicine and companies involved.

"This case raises an important question about how Australia balances the protection of genuine pharmaceutical innovation with the public interest in timely and predictable competition once the relevant patent protection has expired," Prof Halton explained.

"Generic and biosimilar medicine suppliers make significant, long-term decisions about product development, regulatory approval, manufacturing and Australian market entry.

"Clear and predictable patent rules are essential to those decisions," she concluded. *KB*



Shingrix reduces dementia risk

A LARGE US study of people aged over 65 has found that those who received the Shingrix herpes zoster vaccine were 24% less likely to develop dementia in the following years.

The study, conducted by researchers from Brown University School of Public Health and funded by Shingrix manufacturer GSK, involved over 500,000 who were followed up for four years.

They found that those who received Shingrix had a 24% relative reduction in risk and a six percentage point absolute reduction in risk for dementia after four years, compared with those who did not receive the vaccine.

Similar results have been found for studies where the Zostavax vaccine, rather than the newer Shingrix, was used (*PD* 03 Apr 2025).

Access the study [HERE](#).



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Dispensary Corner

THE practice of stomping on a bed of rock salt before bed is one of the newest viral health trends going around, but some experts are not convinced.

TikTok user Tammy Weatherhead claimed in a video that the practice exfoliates the feet, reduces inflammation, as well as shifting the nervous system into a 'rest mode' through curbing cortisol and spiking serotonin.

However, Dr YOSHUA Quinones told the *New York Post* that there is no scientific evidence backing this practice.

"The sensation can be soothing and may promote relaxation and mindfulness, and help some people unwind before bedtime," Dr Quinones said.

"Any calming effect is likely due to the sensory experience and the relaxation ritual itself rather than a chemical reaction occurring in the body."

Dr Quinones also added that the practice can be harmful for those with cuts, wounds, cracked skin, diabetic foot conditions or neuropathy.

Calls for national prescribing safety framework

MEDICAL indemnity insurer Avant Mutual has warned that proposals to significantly expand pharmacist prescribing into complex areas such as cardiovascular disease have crossed a critical safety threshold, calling for a national prescribing safety framework.

The calls from Avant are in response to last week's report released by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's modelling significant health system savings due to pharmacist prescribing (*PD* 09 Jun).

Avant pointed out that one in six medical indemnity claims resulting in regulatory action or patient compensation involved medication-related issues, making them one of the leading drivers of medical negligence claims and one of the higher-risk activities in healthcare.

Its concern is further compounded by the Pharmacy Board proposing to endorse pharmacists' registration to prescribe all medications, including high risk Schedule 4 and Schedule 8 'drugs of addiction' medication (*PD* 21 Apr).

"Avant would not normally enter these public debates with pharmacists, but we've reached the point where medical indemnity

insurers need to highlight the very real risk of patient harm," Avant chief medical officer Professor Steve Robson said.

"Prescribing sits at the intersection of diagnosis, clinical judgement and treatment decisions, and when it goes wrong, the consequences for patients can be tragic.

"Policymakers need to pause before assuming prescribing responsibilities can continue to expand into increasingly complex areas based primarily on projected efficiency gains or theoretical cost savings, rather than patient safety.

"Affordability should not come at the cost of quality, good patient care and ultimately lives."

Professor Robson noted the debate had now moved beyond whether pharmacists had a role in prescribing to where the boundaries should be drawn.

"The question isn't who can prescribe - the question is what level of diagnostic capability, clinical training and ongoing oversight is required to prescribe safely," he said.

"Every expansion of prescribing authority should be accompanied by an equally rigorous assessment of the risks that expansion creates,"



he added.

Dr Mark Woodrow, general manager medical advisory services at Avant, highlighted cases of inappropriate prescribing or missed diagnosis from highly trained and experienced doctors, stating, "we should never underestimate the complexity of prescribing or the importance of getting the diagnosis right".

Professor Robson said nationally agreed 'red lines' around prescribing were urgently needed.

"We believe a nationally consistent prescribing framework is overdue, developed by doctors, pharmacists, regulators, patient representatives and governments, with input from Avant and other indemnity insurers to establish clear, evidence-based principles for prescribing," he concluded. *KB*

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