

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of industry news, plus a full page from healthSAVE.

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Zimstat 5mg shortage extended

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has been advised that the shortage of Zimstat (simvastatin, Alphapharm) 5mg tablets (PD 08 Dec 2025) will continue to the end of Apr 2026.

The TGA has extended the Serious Scarcity Substitution Instrument (SSSI) until 31 May 2026, allowing a pharmacist to dispense an equivalent quantity of simvastatin 10mg tablets, if appropriate, without a new prescription.

Learn more [HERE](#).

Immunisation handbook updates

THE respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) chapter of the Australian Immunisation Handbook has been updated to reflect the new recommendation for RSV vaccine Abrysvo to be given in each pregnancy from 28 weeks gestation.

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has also advised that the Australian CDC has assumed responsibility for publishing the Handbook, with minor changes to logos, branding and administrative elements to be updated over the next few weeks.

See the latest updates [HERE](#).

PSA recognises NSW excellence

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) announced the winners of the PSA New South Wales Pharmacist Awards at a ceremony on Sat night in the Hunter Valley.

NSW Pharmacist of the Year was awarded to Bente Hart of Braidwood, recognised for her leadership, proactive problem-solving, and a deep commitment to rural and vulnerable populations which has made a lasting impact on both the profession and the community she serves.

Her contributions reached across Multipurpose Services (MPS) and Residential Aged Care Homes (RACH), supporting medication audits, National Antimicrobial Prescribing Surveys (NAPS), and addressing medication-related quality improvement issues.

Kate Gray, who is based in Orange, was awarded the PSA NSW Lifetime Achievement Award for over 50 years of commitment to advancing pharmacy practice through leadership, mentorship and community service.

The NSW Early Career Pharmacist of the Year was awarded to Mitchell Budden, who is completing a PhD



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at the University of Newcastle on pharmacist prescribing for uncomplicated urinary tract infections (UTIs) in NSW and the ACT.

His research is focused on evaluating safety and efficacy outcomes to inform policy and practice, and has already contributed to shaping extended scope models that improve patient access and reduce system pressures.

The NSW Intern of the Year award recognised Karina Angelucci for leadership in professional services focused on patient care and medicine safety.

Her achievements included the restructure and growth of her pharmacy's DAA service, as well as boosting vaccinations in a local community that lags behind others in terms of embracing their uptake.

PSA NSW president Luke Kelly congratulated each of the award recipients, who have demonstrated excellence in their practice and dedication to the profession and improved healthcare outcomes for their communities.

"Their work drives forward patient care locally, across New South



Wales, and beyond," Kelly said.

"With the health needs of our community continuing to grow, it's important to celebrate innovation, dedication and passion which takes health care to the next level.

"I congratulate all of the award recipients and thank them for their contribution to the profession and to their local communities," he concluded.

Monash University set to host ACPE this year

THE 2026 Asian Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology (ACPE) will be held in Melbourne this year, hosted by the Centre for Medicine Use and Safety (CMUS) at the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Taking place from 30 Oct to 01 Nov at Monash Parkville Campus, the event will welcome more than 300 researchers, global leaders, clinicians and policymakers from across the Asia-Pacific.

Featuring educational sessions and keynote lectures, "the event will boost global collaboration in pharmacoepidemiology and related disciplines including pharmacovigilance, health economics and data sciences", according to a statement from Monash University.

CMUS Director, Professor Simon Bell, noted the importance of hosting the event in the city for the first time, which will "build research capacity in pharmacoepidemiology".

"The importance of rigorous pharmacoepidemiological studies investigating post-marketing safety and effectiveness is rapidly gaining recognition," Bell said.

"Our conference will have a special focus on providing opportunities for early to mid-career researchers."

Associate Professor Jenni Illomaki from CMUS will be conference chair and is looking forward to sharing the advances in electronic health data in APAC, which are "transforming medication safety and effectiveness research". *JHM*

Check out the latest in Beauty & Wellness

Every Thursday in *Pharmacy Daily*



Beauty & Wellness
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Dispensary Corner



PANCAKES - a favourite breakfast of many, but not exactly a healthy choice. What if they no longer had to be sidelined as a weekend indulgence? UK-based nutritionist Ann Garry has taken a stand for the humble pancake, revealing a simple way to make them more diet-friendly.

"The traditional pancake is made up of white flour, eggs, milk and maybe sugar," she told the *Daily Mail*.

"Eggs are a great part of that, but the rest of it makes it a very quickly digested food.

"It's lovely and you enjoy it, but it's a big sugar hit and you're still left wanting more."

A simple solution is to swap out white flour, which increases blood glucose levels quickly, for something like almond flour or even ground-up oats.

Both of these alternatives offer more protein and fibre, Garry explained.

"Another way would be to just use your normal recipe but not put sugar in your pancakes at all - instead, you could add some chia seeds or some flax seeds," she said.

When it comes to toppings, steer clear of Nutella and maple syrup, and instead try mashed banana and Greek yogurt with a sprinkle of cacao powder.



2026 flu vaccines ready to go



AUSTRALIA'S chief medical officer, Professor Michael Kidd, has written to healthcare professionals ahead of the flu season to reinforce the importance of annual influenza vaccination in protecting individuals, families and communities, and the vital role of health professionals in encouraging uptake.

"Your recommendation to your patients is one of the most influential drivers of vaccination acceptance," Professor Kidd said, highlighting recent lows in vaccination rates (*PD* 07 May 2025).

"Research shows that a strong, confident endorsement from a trusted health professional makes a significant impact on patient decision-making," he added.

Professor Kidd noted that flu vaccines have been updated for 2026 with two new A strains, and National Immunisation Program (NIP) vaccines will be available to order from Apr 2026.

Flu Vaccine Manufacturer CSL Seqirus said its flu vaccines have been released by the TGA and private market vaccines are now available for clinics and pharmacies.

Dr Jules Bayliss, ANZ Vaccines Medical Director for CSL Seqirus says the role of manufacturers is to reliably supply effective vaccines

early to help kickstart successful vaccination campaigns.

"We will be supporting doctors and pharmacists with vaccine stock that's ahead of schedule again this year, helping protect people and the health system from the devastating impacts of influenza," Dr Bayliss said.

"This season CSL Seqirus will be supplying cell-based and adjuvanted vaccines for the private market and as part of the NIP, meaning all Australians will have the potential to access influenza vaccines tailored to their needs."

MEANWHILE in the EU, the European Medicines Agency drug advisory panel has recommended marketing authorisation for Moderna's mCOMBRIAX, the world's first combination flu and COVID mRNA vaccine.

Moderna CEO Stephane Bancel said the recommendation "represents an important milestone for respiratory virus vaccination and for Moderna".

"If approved, this would be Moderna's fourth marketed product in Europe," he said.

"Combination vaccines have the potential to simplify vaccination and support improved health outcomes [and] we appreciate the EMA's rigorous scientific review." *KB*



Weekly Comment

Welcome to *Pharmacy Daily's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Meg Brideson**, managing director at Willach Australia.



Mechanical precision, human precision

COMMUNITY pharmacy is navigating a perfect storm of workforce shortages, regulatory complexity, supply pressures, and demands from expanded scope of practice. As these challenges intensify, pharmacies are turning to dispensing robots as a practical solution strengthening efficiency and patient care.

Automating repetitive dispensing tasks frees pharmacists and technicians to spend more time on clinical services, counselling, and vaccinations, driving your value.

Accuracy and consistency are increased in dispensing, reducing selection errors and supporting compliance in an increasingly complex regulatory environment.

Inventory management is strengthened by tracking real-time stock levels, reducing expired items, and optimising ordering supporting improved cash flow discipline while ensuring medicines are available when needed.

Robots create capacity across the team. As pharmacies take on more clinical responsibilities, shifting the dispensing workload to reliable technology enables reallocation of expertise where it has the greatest impact.

Now more than ever, it's time to reassess automation as an enabler of sustainable modern community pharmacy. [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

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