Pharmacy Daily
Monday 2nd Nov 2026



Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

APP2027 Tier 2

SAVE up to $140 by registering before 31 Jan for the 2027 Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition (APP2027).

Taking place from 18-20 Mar on the Gold Coast, the event offers three days of learning, networking and industry connection - more **HERE**.

NMS symposium coming soon

THE virtual National Medicines Symposium is being held Wed 11 Nov, with key themes including person-centred medicines use beyond 'the right drug', and equity and access for all Australians.

Learn more **HERE**.

Tasmanian winners named

PRICELINE Pharmacy Bridgewater has won Tasmanian Community Pharmacy of the Year at the National Pharmacy Awards.

Recognised for its commitment to improving healthcare accessibility, affordability and patient outcomes in its local community, the pharmacy has expanded its pharmacist workforce, introduced seven-day trading and broadened pharmacist-led services, while investing in technology and dedicated consultation spaces to give pharmacists more time with patients.

Meanwhile, Damian Scott from Complete Care Pharmacy Rosny Park was awarded Community Pharmacist of the Year, honoured for his commitment to expanding the role of community pharmacy, improving access to specialised men's health services across Tasmania and initiatives addressing loneliness.

Community Pharmacy Assistant of the Year was presented to Charlene Cerros, who helped establish Blooms the Chemist Glenorchy in 2023, while also introducing initiatives such as Lunchtime Dates, which creates opportunities for social connection and helps combat loneliness and isolation in the community.

Mei Chen Lee was awarded Intern Pharmacist of the Year for her commitment to patient-centred care, community outreach and improving accessibility for patients, while taking the lead on implementing compression, lymphoedema and concussion screening services.

Finally, the Student Pharmacist of the Year honour went to Charlotte Jackman, who not only helps to deliver monthly community education nights and works as the pharmacy's primary CPAP consultant, but also represents regional pharmacy through her role as 2026 TAPS Rural and Regional Chair.

The winners will now represent Tasmania in the National Final at APP2027 in Mar 2027. *KB*

TGA nicotine gum warning

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is warning consumers about unapproved nicotine gum products being unlawfully supplied in Australia.

The regulator recently seized large quantities of suspected unlawful, counterfeit nicotine chewing gum with the brand name Zyn, which were not entered in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

Nicotine content was labelled as 14mg, whereas approved nicotine replacement therapy products lawfully supplied in Australia contain 2-4mg of nicotine per piece.

Counterfeit products may contain higher or inconsistent amounts of nicotine than stated on the label, as well as undisclosed or potentially harmful ingredients.

Learn more **HERE**.

GO FURTHER. GO PROTECTED.[1]

Don't risk your travel plans.
Vaccines and preventative medicines may be recommended for where you're going.[2]
Talk to your healthcare provider.

If you are exploring the vast lands of Australia or venturing across the seas, you might also come across some diseases that can put a stop to your travel plans. So, to help prevent travel diseases while you are away, speak with your healthcare provider to see if there are any vaccines that you might need before you go.[1,3]



1. Australian Centre for Disease Control. Australian immunisation handbook. Vaccination for international travellers. Available at https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccination-for-special-risk-groups/vaccination-for-international-travellers. Accessed July 2026. **2.** CDC. Travelers' health. Before you travel. Available at https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/before-travel. Accessed October 2026. **3.** Australian Centre for Disease Control. Australian immunisation handbook. Available at https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au. Accessed July 2026. sanofi-aventis australia pty ltd trading as Sanofi. All rights reserved. ABN 31 008 558 807. Sydney, Australia. www.sanofi.com.au. MAT-AU-2601898. Date of preparation: October 2026.

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AMH
We're evolving with you.
The next edition of your trusted medicines information is coming.
AMH Medicines 2027.



Dispensary Corner

STRONGER muscles and relief from knee arthritis pain may be just a simple supplement away, a new study suggests.

In a UK clinical trial, people with knee osteoarthritis who took the prebiotic fibre inulin experienced significant reductions in pain, improved grip strength and decreased sensitivity to pain.

Inulin acts as food for beneficial gut bacteria such as *Bifidobacteria* and *Lactobacilli*, which produce short-chain fatty acids as they break it down.

One of the most important of these is butyrate, a compound that helps support the intestinal lining and can influence inflammation and the biological pathways involved in pain.

Study participants taking inulin had increased levels of butyrate, suggesting that the supplement was influencing activity within the gut microbiome.

There were also higher levels of GLP-1, the hormone released by the gut that helps regulate blood sugar and appetite and has also been linked to pain regulation and muscle health.

While a comparison group undertaking physical therapy also experienced improvements, the supplement proved easier to stick with.

"This study raises the exciting possibility that a simple dietary change - adding a fibre supplement to your breakfast or yogurt - could meaningfully reduce pain and improve physical function," lead author Dr Afroditi Kouraki from the University of Nottingham said.

Some AI scribes may be devices



THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has been taking a closer look at digital scribes to determine whether they may meet the definition of a medical device, with many products likely crossing that line.

Features that analyse clinical information, identify relevant findings and produce recommendations or other outputs that could influence diagnosis or treatment - as many of these AI products do - would generally be regulated as medical devices.

A review of 12 AI scribes, which included the largest players in the Australian market, found that eight went beyond transcribing, documentation and summarising clinical consultations, and potentially met the criteria for a medical device.

"Healthcare professionals find themselves having to understand the role of the software, including the reliability, limitations and intended use of the generated outputs," the TGA stated.

"When digital scribes make diagnostic or treatment recommendations, it may not always be clear how information has been selected, prioritised or generated [which] makes it difficult for users to understand the basis of the output and assess its reliability."

The report noted that some suppliers did not appear to have considered whether medical device regulatory requirements applied to their products, while some relied on disclaimers stating that their products were not medical devices or were not intended for diagnosis or treatment.

"Statements or disclaimers are not sufficient in determining if a product is, or is not, a medical device," the report said.

The TGA emphasised that its review was not an assessment of the clinical safety or performance of the 12 products, nor did it name the eight that raised concerns.

It will use the findings to inform its regulatory approach to digital scribes, potentially involving targeted compliance activities, education and regulatory guidance for stakeholders, including clinicians.

Access the report **HERE**. *KB*

HCPs urged to 'Make a Growmitment'

AS THE nation launches into its annual festival of all things moustache, Movember is urging healthcare professionals to 'Make a Growmitment' to support men's health.

The organisation pointed out that males are engaging with healthcare, but getting them through the door is only part of the challenge - two-thirds of them said they felt no connection with a healthcare practitioner, and had left or wanted to leave.

Pharmacists can undertake a free, evidence-informed CPD training program launched earlier this year, which was designed to build on existing skills and provide practical tools for engaging men in everyday care.

Learn more **HERE**.

Weekly Comment



Welcome to ***Pharmacy Daily***'s weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Sally Taros, co-founder and pharmacist at Vitaceuticals.**

Gummies should be held to the TGA standard

WHEN a customer asks whether a gummy will do the same job as the capsule beside it, my answer is that it depends on whether the gummy contains what its label says, which is the same test we apply to everything we dispense.

The heat, moisture and acidity involved in making gummies degrade many active ingredients, and the results show it.

Testing of vitamin C gummies in the US this year found that almost half contained virtually no vitamin C, and testing reported by the *ABC* found that 89% of creatine gummy brands missed their label claim.

Meanwhile, TGA testing of imported melatonin gummies found that some contained up to four times their labelled dose - and calls to poisons hotlines about children swallowing melatonin reached a record 1,478 in 2024.

Where the dose matters, this means steering customers towards established formats.

These were the questions we kept returning to when developing our own range at Vitaceuticals, and why our range is made up of chews, powders, capsules and tablets, rather than gummies.

As gummies take up more shelf space, the dispensary standard remains the simplest test we can apply on our patients' behalf.

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