Pharmacy Daily
Tuesday 3rd Nov 2026



Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of the latest news, plus a full page from **Cyventine**.

Quit smoking aid

NEW nicotine-free Cyventine (cytisine 1.5mg) from Key Pharmaceuticals can help your patients quit smoking in 25 days - see **page three** for more.

Care for Older Persons Colloquium

JOIN AdPha's expert-led colloquium exploring the clinical and practical challenges of caring for older people.

The full-day program takes place online on 28 Nov, and covers changing pharmacist roles as they manage complex health needs.

Earlybird pricing ends 16 Nov - learn more **HERE**.

Drs call for NSW pharmacist prescribing pause

FIVE leading medical bodies have issued a joint letter calling on the NSW Government to pause the expansion of pharmacist prescribing into complex conditions until an independent evaluation of the Queensland pilot is completed and publicly released.

The letter to NSW Premier Chris Minns was signed by the Australian Medical Association, Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation, Royal Australian College of GPs, Royal Australasian College of Physicians and Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

The group raised concerns about the potential dangers of asking pharmacists to prescribe medication for complex medical conditions, including hypertension and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and said expanding prescribing authority without adequate safeguards risked more fragmented care.

"Conditions such as hypertension and COPD require accurate diagnosis, ongoing monitoring and continuity of care, AMA NSW president Dr Fred Betros said.



"These are not one-off presentations that can be safely managed through episodic encounters alone."

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has repeatedly rejected claims that pharmacist prescribing poses a safety risk to patients, pointing out that programs are carefully designed, condition-based and built around strict clinical governance protocols, safety netting, referral pathways and additional appropriate pharmacist training.

"Ten years ago, the same medical lobby groups were opposed to pharmacists being able to vaccinate," a spokesperson for the Guild said.

"Today we're hearing the same arguments that again put professional self-interest ahead of patients' needs.

"Independent studies in Australia and overseas have shown no significant safety concerns and confirmed that prescribing followed best-practice guidelines," they said.

The Guild has also highlighted that many Australians are unable to access timely healthcare, with 25% waiting longer than they considered reasonable for a GP appointment, and that delays in care present the greatest risk to patients.

"Pharmacist prescribing doesn't replace GPs - it gives patients another safe, timely option and frees GPs up for complex and chronic cases where their expertise matters most." *KB*



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.
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Dispensary Corner

THE humble peanut is not only delicious and nutritious, but a handful or two of them every day may help protect the brain from the effects of ageing.

Recent Dutch research has shown that two daily servings (60 grams) of unsalted, skin-roasted peanuts improved insulin responses in areas of the brain associated with memory, adding to previous research from the same team that showed peanuts also increased cerebral blood flow.

The study involved 31 healthy adults aged from 60 to 75 who consumed 60 grams of peanuts daily for 16 weeks, and underwent a comparison period of 16 weeks where they ate no peanuts.

In addition to unsaturated fats, dietary fibre, vitamins and minerals and bioactive phytochemicals, peanuts are also a good source of plant-based protein and are especially rich in L-arginine - a key precursor of nitric oxide, which has been reported to facilitate learning and memory performance.

"The hormone insulin plays an important role in the brain, where it supports memory and other cognitive processes," study lead Dr Peter Joris said.

"As people age, the brain may become less responsive to insulin, which has been linked to age-related cognitive decline.

"Our study found that daily peanut consumption beneficially affected insulin responsiveness in memory-related brain regions in older adults," he concluded.

New PBS listing for cystic fibrosis

CHILDREN with cystic fibrosis now have access to a new treatment option, through an expanded PBS listing of elexacaftor, tezacaftor and ivacaftor, and ivacaftor (Trikafta, Vertex) to allow eligible children aged six to 11 years living with cystic fibrosis who weigh less than 30 kg to access a granule form of the medicine.

"The expanded listing of Trikafta in granule form will mean thousands of young children with cystic fibrosis will find it easier take their medicine, if they have struggled to take a pill," explained Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler.

Other PBS listings for Nov include evolocumab (Repatha, Amgen), amended to allow increased maximum dispensed quantities under the Government's 60-day prescription initiative for eligible Australians living with high cholesterol, including familial hyper-cholesterolaemia.



For people living with active, moderate-to-severe thyroid eye disease, where effective treatments are limited, teprotumumab (Tepezza, Amgen) will provide a new option.

Finally, brentuximab vedotin (Adcetris, Takeda) will be expanded to provide a new first-line treatment option for Australians living with advanced CD30-positive classical Hodgkin lymphoma.

"The PBS takes the worry of cost out of the equation and means more Australians will be able to live well for longer, without breaking the bank," Minister Butler said. *KB*

Clinic fined $6.95m for med cannabis ads

THE Federal Court of Australia has ordered CDA Clinics Qld to pay a $6.5 million penalty for the unlawful advertising of medicinal cannabis to the public, in breach of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*.

In addition, the telehealth clinic's former director Dr Benjamin Jansen was required to pay $450,000 in civil penalties for his role in the conduct.

The Court found that CDA Clinics promoted the use of medicinal cannabis products, including unapproved and prescription-only medicines, that were not entered in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

The ads on the company's website, blog posts and Facebook posts also promoted the use of the drug for the treatment of serious diseases, conditions and disorders, including cancer, mental illnesses and autoimmune conditions, which is not permitted unless the ads are TGA approved.

In delivering her judgment, Justice Berna Joan Collier noted that the ads "formed part of a deliberate commercial strategy" designed to encourage consumer engagement with CDA's services and to facilitate access to medicinal cannabis products.

The TGA ad guidelines are **HERE**.

Leadership special report

PHARMACY Daily has released its first ever leadership special report, highlighting the industry leaders making change within the sector.

This report discusses the evolution of modern leadership, preparing teams for expanded scope, empowering the next generation of pharmacists and building a legacy.

Featured within the report are interviews with experts including TerryWhite Chemmart general manager Michael Beaumont, International Pharmacist of the Year Sara Murdock, Australian Pharmacy Council CEO Bronwyn Clark, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia CEO Bridget Totterman and more.

A special thanks to our partners for supporting the report, including TerryWhite Chemmart, NP Brands, Minfos, FredIT and Raven's Recruitment.

To check out the special report, subscribe to ***Pharmacy Daily*** and read it **HERE.**



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1. West R, et al. N Engl J Med. 2011;365(13):1193-1200. 2. Walker N, et al. N Engl J Med. 2014;371(25):2353-2362.