Pharmacy Daily
Wednesday 4th Nov 2026



Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of the latest industry news.

One week to NMS

THE virtual National Medicines Symposium (NMS) is being held on 11 Nov, with key themes including person-centred medicines use beyond 'the right drug', and the role of the multidisciplinary team in promoting medicines stewardship.

Learn more and register **HERE**.

Product of the Year winners

HAPPY Kat and Hunny Simply have been crowned winners in their respective categories in the NielsenIQ shopper-voted Product of the Year Australia 2027 awards.

Happy Kat Postpartum Recovery Kit won in the pregnancy & postpartum care category, while Hunny Simply Lip Balm won the lip care category.

Both brands are distributed through Powerhouse Retail Distribution, with founder and CEO Helen Sykes commenting, "I've worked in this industry since I was a teenager, so to now see two brands I've personally created receive this recognition is something I'm enormously proud of."

CeraQuin Face and Body Lotions won the therapeutic skincare category.

TGA approves Wegovy pill



THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) yesterday approved oral Wegovy, Novo Nordisk's daily semaglutide pill (***PD*** breaking news), becoming the first oral GLP-1 receptor agonist to be listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG).

Already approved in the US and Europe, where demand has surged, the pill is expected to be available in Australia on private prescription before the end of the year.

The pill is approved for people with obesity as an adjunct to a reduced-energy diet and increased physical activity for chronic weight management, and to reduce the risk of major cardiovascular events in people with a BMI of 27 or more and established cardiovascular disease.

Tablets in various strengths have been included on the ARTG: 1.5mg, 4mg, 9mg and 25mg.

While patients generally start on the lowest dose, and increase it every 30 days to the maximum dose, those already using the injectable form will typically start at a higher dose.

The most common side effects include gastrointestinal symptoms, changes in skin sensations, headache, fatigue, low blood sugar in people with type 2 diabetes and hair loss.

Pricing for the drug is unknown at this stage, but if it follows international precedent, it is expected to be similar to or slightly cheaper than the injections on a monthly basis.

"Novo is working towards bringing this new treatment option to eligible Australians, with anticipated availability later this year," a Novo Nordisk spokeswoman told the *Australian Financial Review,* adding they will share future updates.

Mounjaro maker Eli Lilly lodged an application with the TGA for its weight loss pill orforglipron in Jan this year, which, pending approval, could be the first oral, non-peptide GLP-1 receptor agonist to become available in Australia. *KB*

Toxicology education for pharmacists

NSW Poisons Information Centre (PIC) is marking Poisons Awareness Day with a dedicated toxicology education day for community pharmacists, in recognition of the vital role they play in poisoning prevention.

"The substances most commonly involved in exposures reported to the NSW Poisons Information Centre are medicines, making pharmacist awareness and patient counselling an important part of reducing harm," a NSW PIC spokesperson said.

Providing practical, evidence-based updates from NSW PIC specialists and toxicology experts, topics include:

- paracetamol toxicity
- highly toxic pharmaceuticals
- bites and stings
- medication errors in supported living
- recreational drugs
- essential oils
- ADHD medication errors and toxicity
- peptides
- the specialist pharmacist role at the PIC.

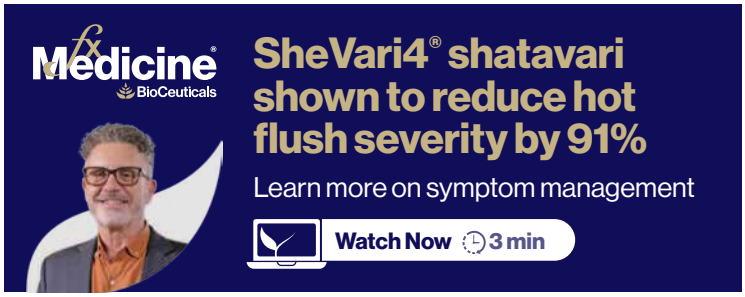
Now celebrating its 60th anniversary, NSW PIC provides around 125,000 callers - including the public and health professionals - with expert advice each year.

The event takes place at the Children's Hospital Westmead and online on Sat 14 Nov.

Learn more **HERE**.

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Cancer Council celebrates Slip! Slop! Slap!

IN THE lead up to National Skin Cancer Action Week (15-22 Nov), Cancer Council Australia is encouraging Australians to make sun protection part of their everyday lives and pass those habits on to future generations.

The call ties in with this year's theme, 'Sun safe habits last a lifetime', and comes as Australia marks 45 years of Slip! Slop! Slap! and Sid Seagull, one of the country's most recognised public health campaigns.

According to the organisation, 45 years of prevention efforts have contributed to declining melanoma rates among men and women under 40.

However, two in three Australians will still be diagnosed with a form of skin cancer in their lifetime, and there are more non-melanoma skin cancer diagnoses than all other cancers combined.

"We know that exposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun is the main cause of skin cancer, and research has found that 50% of lifetime UV exposure happens before age 20, showing that sun protection habits established today can help lower your risk of skin cancer tomorrow," Cancer Council Australia CEO Jacinta Reddan said.

"Studies also tell us that children are 12 times more likely to use sunscreen and three times more likely to wear a hat when they see their parents do it first, further emphasising that the benefits of sun-safe habits can last a lifetime, especially when introduced early," she added.

MEANWHILE, sunscreen industry peak body Accord Australasia has launched a new sunscreen hub, designed to provide a one-stop-shop for clear, evidence-based advice on choosing and using a sunscreen.

The hub addresses many common consumer questions, including what the SPF number means, how often to reapply, and what broad spectrum and water-resistant mean (click **HERE**).

Draft virtual health standards out

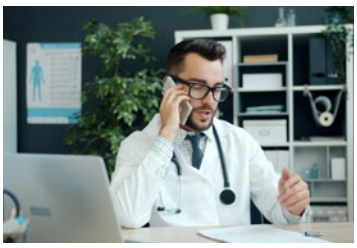
THE Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has released the draft national standards for virtual care (***PD*** 22 Jun), with public consultation open until 13 Dec 2026.

Developed as healthcare delivery continues to evolve, the first draft of the virtual care standards recognises the realities of modern clinical practice in the Australian health system and support healthcare services to adapt and evolve while ensuring care is consistently high-quality and improving over time.

They apply to care delivered virtually through hospitals, primary and community healthcare, emergency care and commercial providers.

The virtual care standards comprise three discrete standards covering clinical governance, person-centred practice and safety clinical systems, and together are designed to work as a single, integrated system driving safety and quality.

Core elements underpinning the standards are high-quality care, cultural safety and patient preferences.



Responding to draft standards, telehealth company Montu has called for the standards to be mandatory across all virtual care providers warning that critical regulatory loopholes may otherwise be left open.

The draft standards are a vital step forward, but public interest must remain the anchor for telehealth reform, said Edward Strong, head of government relations at Montu, who welcomed the Commission's leadership and sector engagement.

"Standards only protect patients if they apply to everyone," Strong pointed out.

"Voluntary standards will fail to eliminate regulatory loopholes or fully safeguard patient welfare.

"We therefore urge the government to make these commonsense standards mandatory to protect vulnerable patients, eliminate low-quality operators, and help secure long-term public trust in digital health.

"That way every provider is held to the same standard, and every patient can receive the same high-quality care."

View the draft standards **HERE**. *KB*

New study reveals widespread lying to secure antibiotics

A SURVEY study published in *JAMA Network Open* involving over 1,200 US adults, found that around 27% of respondents reported misrepresenting symptoms to get antibiotics from a clinician for themselves or a child, with cold-like symptoms most commonly reported.

The reasons for the lying included illness severity ("I felt really sick"), perceived antibiotic efficacy ("antibiotics were the only thing that would help me") and needing to get better ("they will help me get back to my responsibilities more quickly").

Factors associated with reports of lying to obtain antibiotics included people feeling they had not been taken seriously, believing antibiotic resistance is a hoax and having lower health literacy.

Of all the eight categories of symptoms people listed for requesting antibiotics, only urinary symptoms justified antibiotics.

The authors said the findings highlighted the need for strategies to promote antibiotic knowledge, including appropriate use, and improve patient-clinician communication to address factors contributing to symptom misrepresentation.

Access the research **HERE**.



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Dispensary Corner

TYPE 2 diabetes patients may one day be able to zap away excess blood sugar with an electronic implant, helping to prevent negative effects of diabetes such as nerve, eye and kidney damage.

Swiss scientists have developed a system that uses an electrically powered catalyst to convert excess glucose to gluconate, which is then passed out in urine.

Made entirely from inorganic materials, it does not need cells, enzymes or other biological components which pose challenges such as immune tolerance and stability.

The catalyst consists of graphite felt studded with gold nanoclusters, which are themselves decorated with even smaller platinum particles.

Communicating via Bluetooth, a continuous glucose monitor sends an alert if blood sugar rises too much after a meal, activating the catalyst, which uses electrical energy to convert the glucose to gluconate.

Once glucose levels have fallen to the desired level, the device switches itself off automatically, protecting patients from dangerously low blood sugar.

The researchers tested the system in diabetic mice and found that the animals' blood sugar could be precisely regulated - the mice lost weight, the implant was well tolerated and it operated reliably during a six-week period.

The next step is to further develop the device and conduct clinical testing in humans.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Hartley's Gripe Water

Hartley's Gripe Water is a natural blend of herbal ingredients including dill seed oil, peppermint oil, chamomile and coriander oil. These herbs have been used safely in commercial infant preparations for many years.

The product helps reduce the occurrence of excess intestinal wind and gas in infants, and helps relieve the symptoms of infant colic. It does not contain artificial sweeteners.



Suppliers: Available from Symbion, Sigma, API & CH2.

Stockist enquiries: Contact your Clear Sales representative on 1800 640 043 for special deals.

RRP: $11.27 - 200ml bottle

Website: CLICK HERE for more information.

MagZorb Migraine Aid

(Magnesium glycinate with riboflavin, CoQ10, Feverfew and activated B vitamins)

Mild migraine is a common reason patients seek advice at the counter, and many want something to take daily.

Developed alongside a neurologist, Migraine Aid combines six targeted actives in one tablet that helps reduce the occurrence and duration of mild migraines, while supporting nervous system function and energy production.



Containing magnesium glycinate for gentle absorption, activated B vitamins and no B6, Migraine Aid is made in Australia for adults who would rather stay one step ahead.

Stockist enquiries: Speak to your Alita representative.

RRP: $46.95 (60 tablets)

Website: CLICK HERE for more information.

Adults only. Not to be taken while on warfarin therapy without medical advice. If symptoms persist, talk to a health professional.

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