Pharmacy Daily
Tuesday 10th Nov 2026



Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

APP2027 program now available

THE program for next year's Australasian Pharmacy Professional Conference & Trade Exhibition (APP2027) has been released, built around the theme 'Where pharmacy transforms'.

Showcasing the ideas, innovations and emerging opportunities shaping the future of community pharmacy, the event, which takes place 18-20 Mar, will provide delegates with practical knowledge and actionable insights they can take back to their pharmacies and local communities.

APP chairman Kos Sclavos said the 2027 program reflects one of the most significant periods of change in the profession's history.

"Community pharmacy is evolving at an extraordinary pace and APP2027 has been designed to help delegates navigate that change with confidence," Sclavos said.

"From clinical practice and full scope opportunities through to technology, business innovation and international healthcare trends, APP2027 brings together leading experts from Australia and around the world to share practical solutions and future-focused thinking."

Learn more **HERE**.

Team approach urged for asthma

THE National Asthma Council (NAC) released new Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data yesterday showing that 484 people lost their lives in 2025 due to asthma, reinforcing the need for a multidisciplinary team approach to management.

Clinical Associate Professor Debbie Rigby, pharmacist and NAC clinical executive lead, said pharmacists can play a critical role in improving asthma control and inhaler technique with Home Medicine Reviews.

"Changes to the Australia Asthma Handbook recommending ICS-containing inhalers with AIR and MART regimens will help reduce asthma-related deaths in adults and adolescents, along with reducing overuse of salbutamol inhalers as sole therapy," Assoc Prof Rigby said.

"Hand-in-hand with this is education about the importance of regular treatment, not just relievers when people are symptomatic," she added.

The recommendation is now for anti-inflammatory reliever therapy (with budesonide-formoterol) as needed in those with mild asthma, or maintenance and reliever therapy (inhaled corticosteroid-formoterol), regularly and as needed for symptom control (***PD*** 17 Sep 2025).

"Community pharmacists have a responsibility to discuss with patients requesting OTC salbutamol inhalers on the safety issues of SABA-only use in adults and adolescents, and inform them on the benefits of anti-inflammatory reliever therapy,"



Assoc Prof Rigby said.

People over 75 years old, who comprised 44% of the deaths, often have comorbid conditions including heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, reflux or obesity which complicate diagnosis and management and may lead to patients not prioritising their asthma.

"When talking with older patients with comorbidities and asthma, it is critical to reinforce that even if they are not symptomatic all the time with their asthma, it is important to treat it and recognise that acute severe and life-threatening attacks of asthma can occur even in patients who may have so-called mild asthma," Assoc Prof Rigby concluded. *KB*

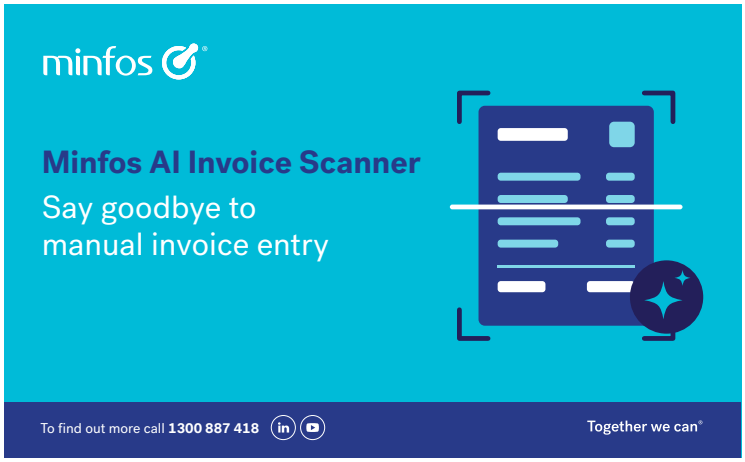
ACCC Black Friday sales warning

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) is intensifying its scrutiny of retail advertising and promotional practices, launching a fresh compliance sweep across multiple sectors during the Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales period.

The sweep will look at misleading conduct including the use of scarcity messaging ('stocks are low') and ads comparing sale prices to a misleading reference price, and will cover websites, emails and social media, as well as in-store promotions.

"Consumers should be able to trust that the advertised savings and discount prices are genuine," ACCC deputy chair Catriona Lowe said.

"Retailers risk ACCC enforcement action if they misrepresent the size, scope or duration of their sales."





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Dispensary Corner

AS Australian Food Safety Week is marked from 07-14 Nov, research has revealed that an astonishing one in six Australian adults consumes raw cows' milk - despite it being illegal to sell as human food.

Raw milk is that which hasn't undergone a pasteurisation process, which involves heating the milk to 72°C for around 15 seconds to kill any harmful bacteria that might be present, or similar processes such as ultra-heat treatment or high-pressure treatment (cold-pressed milk).

Pasteurisation, which became standard practice in the 1950s, kills harmful bacteria such as *Salmonella, Listeria, Yersinia, Campylobacter, Staphylococcus* and *E. coli*, and can also prevent potentially fatal zoonotic diseases such as brucellosis and tuberculosis.

It doesn't affect the nutritional profile of the milk.

Some raw cows' milk continues to be sold 'not for human consumption' as 'bath milk', 'cosmetic milk' or 'pet milk', while unpasteurised goats' milk and cheese and other raw milk cheeses are permitted to be sold with strict food safety requirements.

"We urge people not to consume raw milk so we can reduce the estimated 4.67 million cases of food poisoning in Australia each year that result in 47,000 hospitalisations and a cost to the economy of $3 billion," the Food Safety Information Council CEO Lydia Buchtmann concluded.

Passion for practice change

LONG before pharmacist prescribing and expanded clinical services became mainstream conversations, Kate Gunthorpe (**pictured**), an implementation and change specialist at TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC), saw the untapped potential of the profession.

Driven by a belief that pharmacists could play a much greater role in patient care, she has spent her career creating pathways, support systems and opportunities that enable pharmacists to practise to their full potential while helping to lead one of the profession's most significant transformations.

Gunthorpe shared with ***Pharmacy Daily*** the story behind her passion for leading change.

***PD*: What inspired you to help drive the transition to expanded scope of practice across TWC?**

KG: Early in my career, I could see how much more pharmacists were capable of doing for their patients, but we did not always have the opportunities or pathways to use the full breadth of our skills.

That frustration became a real driver for me - rather than waiting for the profession to change, I wanted to be part of building what came next.

That eventually led me into education, implementation and workforce development, where I could help other pharmacists build their confidence and step into new areas of practice.

***PD*: What investments have the network made to prepare pharmacists for expanded scope roles?**

KG: We've invested significantly in our pharmacists because ultimately, they're the ones driving this transformation.

That includes education programs, clinical workshops, mentoring



networks, governance frameworks, digital tools and systems that support safe and effective clinical care.

However, one of the most important investments has been creating opportunities for pharmacists to continue learning and growing beyond formal training.

A qualification isn't the finish line; it's really the beginning.

Clinical confidence develops through experience, reflection, collaboration, and ongoing support.

***PD*: What does success look like in five years' time when it comes to pharmacist scope of practice?**

KG: In five years', time, I'd love to see a workforce of confident clinicians who are continually developing their skills and pursuing areas of practice they are passionate about.

For some, that might be prescribing, while for others, it might be chronic disease management, women's health, preventative care, vaccinations, aged care, or another clinical specialty.

Most importantly, success means patients have better access to care and pharmacists are practising to their full potential.

If we've created an environment where pharmacists can build rewarding careers while improving health outcomes in their communities, then we've achieved something truly meaningful. *KB*

Read the ***Pharmacy Daily*** leadership report **HERE.**

Doxycycline linked with miscarriage

A LARGE study involving thousands of women has found that doxycycline use for respiratory tract infections (RTIs) or acne during early pregnancy was linked with an increased risk for pregnancy loss.

As the antibiotic is frequently used by women of childbearing age, the findings underscore the importance of both clinicians and patients weighing the benefits and risks when considering treatment with doxycycline, the team from the University of Florida said.

Using US insurance claims data, the researchers compared women who filled prescriptions for doxycycline during the first trimester with similar women who received other treatments, including amoxicillin and macrolide for RTIs and topical clindamycin for acne.

Gynaecology and reproductive medicine professor Kelton Tremellen from Flinders University said the findings add to earlier concerns around doxycycline and are biologically plausible based on evidence of DNA damage in animal embryos.

"The key message is that doctors should consider avoiding doxycycline in women of childbearing age who are not using reliable contraception, where suitable alternatives are available," Professor Tremellen said.

"Other commonly used antibiotic classes, including penicillins and macrolides, were not associated with an increased risk of miscarriage in this study."

Read the study **HERE**.

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EDITORIAL
Editor - Karina Bray
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Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING
Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan
Business Development Manager Kara Stanley
advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

GENERAL MANAGER & PUBLISHER
Matthew Vince

ACCOUNTS
accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

info@pharmacydaily.com.au

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