Pharmacy Daily
Monday 16th Nov 2026



Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

Peptide users infection warning

HEALTH organisations have issued a fresh warning about the risk of serious infections arising from unsafe injecting equipment as the use of injectable peptides continues to rise.

Hepatitis Australia and the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases have urged people administering unapproved products to use sterile injecting equipment to reduce the risk of serious bacterial infections, including life-threatening sepsis, as well as blood-borne viruses from shared needles.

National data from the Kirby Institute has shown a sharp rise in the injecting of performance and image-enhancing substances, including steroids, peptides and growth hormones, with 14% of people who attended participating needle and syringe programs reporting their use in 2025, up from 9% in 2022.

"Using new sterile equipment every time is one of the most important steps people can take to protect themselves," Hepatitis Australia CEO Lucy Clynes said, adding that sterile needles and syringes can be purchased from most pharmacies.

New vax guidelines in works

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has begun a review of its *Practice Guidelines for Pharmacists Providing Immunisation Services*, with the updated guidelines set to replace the current May 2020 edition, and is seeking the input from pharmacists.

The revised document is expected to be released in June 2027.

Alongside this process, the PSA will also provide interim guidance to support the Australian Government's expansion of the National Immunisation Program Vaccinations in Pharmacy (NIPVIP) Program.

Funded through the 2026-27 Federal Budget, the expansion will allow participating pharmacies to administer NIP vaccines to children under five from 01 Jan 2027, where permitted under relevant state and territory legislation.

PSA national president, Professor Mark Naunton, said the profession needs contemporary guidance that reflects state and territory legislative reforms and the expansion of pharmacist-delivered immunisation services.

"As the peak body for Australian pharmacists, PSA has a responsibility to ensure pharmacists and pharmacy staff have clear, up-to-date guidance to support safe, accessible vaccination services," Professor Naunton said.

"We welcome the Australian Government's investment in expanding pharmacist vaccination to children under five, and we are pleased to be working with the Department [of Health and Ageing] to ensure pharmacists have the guidance they need to help lift childhood vaccination rates."



Associate Professor Fei Sim, chair of the immunisation practice guidelines project advisory group, invited input from pharmacists, saying the review presents an important opportunity for pharmacists to shape the future of immunisation practice.

"With significant changes to pharmacist vaccination services commencing from 01 Jan, now is the time for pharmacists to share their experiences and tell us what support they need in practice," Associate Professor Sim said.

"These guidelines need to reflect the realities of contemporary pharmacy practice, and the only way we can achieve that is by hearing directly from pharmacists across practice settings and jurisdictions.

"The strongest professional guidance is developed with the profession, not for the profession, so please have your say to help identify the issues, opportunities, and practical guidance that should be addressed in the next edition."

Pharmacists who wish to contribute to the review can do so **HERE**. *KB*

Wegovy pill pricing released

NOVO Nordisk has announced the recommended pricing for its oral Wegovy (semaglutide) weight loss medication, which will range from $260 to $395 per month, depending on dosage.

This is similar to the cost of monthly injections, and works out at less than $10 a day for those on the lowest dose, while those on the highest dose will pay around $13 per day, though the final price may vary depending on the individual pharmacy and the services provided with the medicine.

It is still anticipating the product's release before the end of the year.

TGA says no to GP isotretinoin Rx

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has rejected an application from the Royal Australian College of GPs to allow the prescribing of isotretinoin for moderate to severe acne, saying it would remain restricted to physicians and dermatologists.

The regulator cited concerns around patient safety and said the RACGP had not provided "robust evidence to demonstrate equivalent safety outcomes", in particular as they relate to teratogenicity, which requires comprehensive pregnancy prevention measures and monitoring.



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Dispensary Corner

FOR those looking for a sun-safe tan, the latest trend is carrotmaxxing, where the carotenoids found in carrots can give the skin a "golden" (read orange) glow.

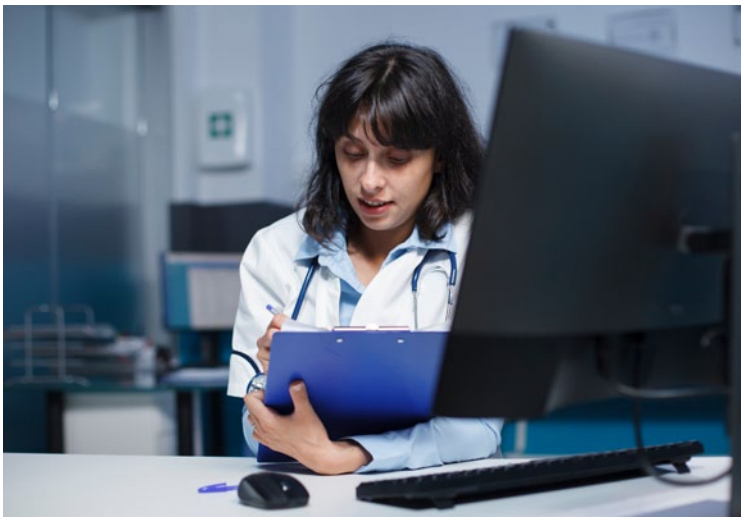
Also called carotenaemia, the skin colour change is due to the accumulation of carotenoids in the top layers of the skin, with three to eight large carrots a day, or one to two glasses of carrot juice, required to have an effect.

While generally harmless, at least when eaten in food form, those taking beta-carotene via supplements risk toxicity.

Also on the (dining) table are shrimpmaxxing and tomatomaxxing, whereby the eponymous foods eaten in large enough quantities can provide a pink or red tinge respectively.

The downside, apart from potential digestive events, is that the effect can be uneven and difficult to control, while many may find the orange hue less than appealing - probably best to stick with self-tanner.

EMS switch increases med errors



THE Australian Institute of Health Innovation (AIHI) at Macquarie University has warned that the risk of medication errors increases in the months following the implementation of a new hospital electronic medication system (EMS), suggesting that increased vigilance is needed around this time.

The team looked at prescribing in an Australian paediatric hospital, comparing prescribing error rates in the first 70 days after a new EMS was implemented to replace paper charts, with one-year post-implementation, and found a 62% increase in potential adverse drug events in the initial period.

Wrong dose errors (both overdose and underdose) increased by 22%, wrong route by 65%, and duplicate drug therapy errors by 82%.

However, by one-year post-implementation, potential adverse medication-related events had returned to baseline levels.

The team also reported similar findings from a hospital that changed from one type of electronic health record (EHR) to another, where problems with dosing units, only allowing weight-based doses for certain medications, not being able to order half-doses and conflicting administration instructions featured commonly.

"These and other studies show that the time immediately after a move from paper charts to an EMS, or transitioning from one EHR to another, is a time of heightened risk for medication errors, and close attention to monitoring error rates should be a priority," they concluded.

Learn more **HERE**.

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Weekly Comment



Welcome to ***Pharmacy Daily***'s weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Sally Tadros, cofounder and pharmacist at Vitaceuticals.**

Not all magnesium is the same

"I TRIED magnesium and it didn't do anything."

When I hear this, I ask to see the label, because the salt form often explains it.

Magnesium oxide is poorly soluble, with one study measuring absorption at around 4%.

Citrate is better absorbed, but it draws water into the bowel, so it suits digestive support and can cause loose stools at higher doses.

Glycinate is magnesium chelated to the amino acid glycine.

It is well absorbed, may be taken up partly through amino acid pathways, and is far less likely to upset the stomach or bowel.

That suits sensitive customers, older adults and anyone taking magnesium long term.

Long-term is the point.

Magnesium supports normal muscle function, nervous system function and energy production, and those roles depend on steady daily intake.

Glycinate also fits easily into an evening routine.

A form customers can comfortably take every day is often the one that works.

Learn more HERE.

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