Pharmacy Daily
Tuesday 17th Nov 2026



Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus full pages from:

- **Cyventine**
- **Willach**

Support to quit

CYVENTINE can help patients quit smoking in 25 days with its nicotine-free, film-coated tablets - see **page three** to learn more.

Robots on the rise

WILLACH Pharmacy Solutions is inviting pharmacy owners to discover the latest in pharmacy robot automation.

More details on **page four**.

Pharmacists must be heard

THE Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has called on governments to prioritise the concerns of pharmacy workers over pharmacy owners, amid growing concerns over staffing shortages, workloads and patient safety.

"Politicians and policymakers need to consider whether pharmacists have the staffing, time and support they need to deliver safe, high-quality care, before they even consider asking them to take on more clinical responsibility traditionally managed by specialist-trained medical practitioners," RACGP President Dr Michael Wright (**pictured**) said.

"The concerns of these workers deserve serious attention before governments expand the role of profit-driven retail health services.



"There is a clear difference between supporting pharmacists and supporting the commercial ambitions of large pharmacy businesses," he added.

The comments follow recent industrial action by National Pharmacies employees across SA and Victoria, with staff calling for improved pay, staffing levels and working conditions.

Around 150 pharmacists went on a 24-hour strike on Sat, affecting 16 stores across the two states.

Senior organiser for the union, Professionals Australia, Ayah Buenaflor, said: "Community pharmacists at National Pharmacies now vaccinate, prescribe and deliver clinical services."

"Their pay and conditions need to reflect the work that they do, and risks from understaffing must be addressed," she added. *JM*

NHMRC advice

THE National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has released advice on the use of puberty suppressants for trans and gender-diverse minors.

According to the conditional recommendation, suppressants can be used by patients under the age of 18, as long as it is agreed upon by the individual, their parents or carers, as well as their clinicians.

It also advises that suppressants should be taken once the person has commenced puberty, has gender incongruence with or without distress, and is deemed suitable for treatment.

Several experts have praised the new advice from the NHMRC, believing it will provide a pathway for young trans people to feel safe and accepted within the community, as well as lower the number of self-harm and suicide attempt cases.

Lilly lists first GLP-1 pill in Australia

LILLY Australia has announced its first-of-a-kind GLP-1 pill, Foundayo, is now available in Australia to treat obesity and type 2 diabetes.

The small-molecule, non-peptide GLP-1 receptor agonist is taken as a daily pill, without food or water restrictions, and works by targeting and stimulating a natural hormone in the body to control hunger, slow digestion and promote feelings of fullness.

Clinical trials for the medication involved more than 10,000 patients in 15 countries, including partnerships with a dozen Australian hospitals and clinics.

Private prescriptions for Foundayo can be filled by a pharmacist, however the medication is not available through the PBS.

"Now that Foundayo can be prescribed, our focus is on ways to deliver broader access for Australians who may benefit from this new medicine," Lilly Australia GM Dr Manny Simons said.

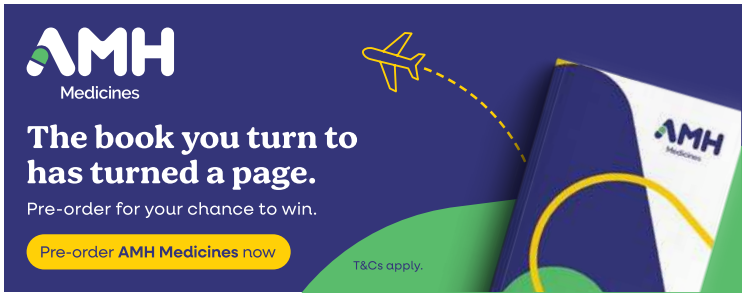
"We know there are challenges within the PBS system, and these won't change overnight.

"But we remain glass half-full and will continue to work with the Federal Government to explore ways to broaden access to Foundayo and other innovative medicines," Simons added.





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Dispensary Corner

WITH ramen noodles no longer just the staple of uni students and backpackers but now becoming a foodie favourite, experts have offered some advice for those including it in their diet more.

First and foremost, despite boasting around 400 calories in a standard serving, the noodles do not provide much nutritional value, lacking adequate protein, fibre, vitamins and minerals.

Additionally, the seasonings and flavoured oil involved with making the dish can significantly increase the salt content, which in turn can lead to higher blood pressure.

"Some instant ramen packets I've seen contain around half of an adult's daily intake - which is shocking," dietitian Nichola Ludlam Raine explained.

She said that the best way to combat these concerns was not to treat the packaged product as a "complete meal", but as "more of a starting point".

"Adding an egg, tofu, chicken or vegetables can make a significant difference to its nutritional value," Raine said.

Pak choi, spinach, broccoli, mushrooms, carrots and peppers also work well in the dish, as do flavour-builders like fresh ginger, garlic, chilli, lime juice and herbs.



Pharmacy platforms join forces

PHARMACY platform Medadvisor and Pharmacy Hive have announced a new partnership to deliver a comprehensive QSPP solution to the Australian pharmacy market.

Currently used in around 90% of pharmacies, Medadvisor offers patient engagement and clinical recording evidence as part of the existing platform, with further enhancements providing Patient Reported Experience Measures (PREMs) and Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) coming online soon.

Meanwhile, Pharmacy Hive delivers on the clinical governance and business management front, including a suite of policies and procedures tailored to each pharmacy to reflect and suit its local environment, alongside evidence recording tools and integrated workflow systems.

At the moment, pharmacies can access the two platforms separately, but come 2027, the Pharmacy Hive offering will be integrated into Medadvisor.

Medadvisor CEO Wayne Marinoff stated: "Technology should support care, not add to the workload.

"By partnering with Pharmacy Hive, we are providing pharmacies a practical way to capture patient feedback and build their governance evidence, with a provider who understands pharmacy."

Simon Carroll, founder and chief executive officer of Pharmacy Hive, highlighted the practical benefits the platform brings to pharmacists in terms of clinical governance and business management.

"QSPP asks pharmacies to demonstrate quality and safety in everyday practice, and that takes both strong governance and good evidence," Carroll said.

"Partnering with Medadvisor, which so many pharmacies already use every day, means the patient voice can sit alongside the governance work our subscribers do with us." *KB*

Listed ingredients exclusivity expanded

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has extended the exclusivity period for new listed medicine ingredients from two to three years.

Intended to recognise the resources invested by applicants in researching and developing new ingredients for use in listed medicines, the market exclusivity period ensures that a protected ingredient can only be used in listed medicines by the ingredient owner and other sponsors authorised by the ingredient owner.

Biotechnology company Longevity Life Sciences (LLS), which took part in industry consultation, welcomed the move, saying that the previous two-year period did not adequately reflect the significant investment made in developing and bringing a new ingredient to market and could deter innovation in Australia.

While the TGA has stated that applications for new substances for use in listed medicines will be eligible for a three-year market exclusivity period, provided that the proposed ingredient is eligible for exclusivity, LLS would also like to see ingredients already within their two-year exclusivity period eligible for the same extension.

Superbugs loom

REPORTS of critical antibiotic resistance in Australia have risen by 25%, prompting fresh warnings from the Australian Medical Association (AMA).

Released ahead of World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week, AMA's new Antimicrobial Resistance in Australia Report revealed that an estimated 1,031 Australians died in 2020 from hospital-associated infections caused by five common antimicrobial-resistant bacteria.

On a global scale, more than 39 million deaths are projected to be directly caused by antimicrobial resistance in the years to 2050 if the trend is not interrupted.

The report warned that any expansion of antibiotic prescribing must be backed by strong clinical safeguards.

"Antimicrobial resistance is not a future threat - it is here, it is growing, and it is already having devastating consequences," AMA President Dr Michael Bonning said.

Despite a decade of developing strategies and action plans to tackle antimicrobial resistance, implementation across Australia was falling short.

"What we need now is coordinated action from governments and proper investment to implement those commitments and turn plans into results.

"We need strong antimicrobial stewardship wherever these medicines are prescribed, as well as better surveillance, public awareness, and investment in new treatments."

Pharmacy Daily
www.pharmacydaily.com.au

Pharmacy Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

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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.

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