Pharmacy Daily
Thursday 19th Nov 2026



Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature, plus a full page from **MediChoice.**

Pain relief options

MEDICHOICE is highlighting its rapid pain relief range, including its ibuprofen mini liquid capsules.

Discover more information on the **back page.**

Nod to Foundayo

DIABETES Australia has welcomed the TGA approval of Foundayo (orforglipron), a new oral GLP-1 receptor agonist for the management of type 2 diabetes and obesity (***PD*** 17 Nov).

"GLP-1 medicines have significantly expanded treatment options for many people living with type 2 diabetes and obesity, and it is encouraging to see new formulations becoming available," Diabetes Australia Group CEO Justine Cain said.

While this was a positive development, regulatory approval does not mean that a medicine will be affordable or accessible to everyone who could benefit from it, Cain pointed out.

It is equally important to ensure that the new treatment is prescribed appropriately, she added.

AdPha's progress amid pressure

MOUNTING staffing pressures and tightening budgets are threatening to undermine the growth of Australia's hospital pharmacy sector, according to Advanced Pharmacy Australia's (AdPha) 2026 Annual Report.

Associate Professor Tom Simpson (**pictured**), who was re-elected AdPha president along with vice president Brenda Shum at the organisation's AGM last night, said the report "records a year of substantial progress" while also emphasising that the past 12 months had "asked a great deal of hospital pharmacy".

"Budgets have tightened, workforce pressures have deepened and the pace of change has not eased, all against a backdrop of rapidly accelerating technological disruption - particularly the bewildering pace of AI integration," Simpson said.

The annual report highlighted several major achievements made over the year despite these challenges, including a new publishing partnership with Therapeutic Guidelines, which saw the launch of ObesiD - Australia's first dedicated drug-dosing guide for people living with obesity.

AdPha also successfully advocated for hospital pharmacy technicians to be recognised separately from community pharmacy technicians, supported by evidence of their advanced skills and a newly developed competency framework.

Additionally, the industry body continued to strengthen the foundations of collaborative practice, with three new clinical



standards published to support pharmacy professionals working in nephrology, medication safety and emergency medicine (***PD*** 27 Aug).

Other milestones achieved in 2026, as detailed in the report, included new platforms for member connection and mentoring (***PD*** 29 May); the third anniversary of the Australian and New Zealand College of Advanced Pharmacy (ANZCAP) (***PD*** 13 Oct); and the second-largest Medicines Management and AdPha National Conference in history (***PD*** 27 Oct). *JM*

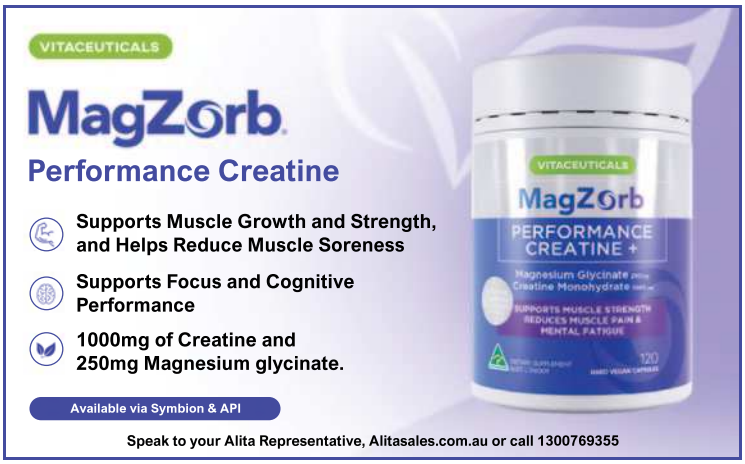
Freeze PBS price

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has called on the Federal Government to keep PBS medicines at $25 until 2030, after a new poll found that 85% of Australians support freezing the cost.

Commissioned by the Guild, the research also found that cost of living was now the single most important issue 60% of Australians want their State and Federal Government representatives to act on - up from 48% a year ago.

Among people without a concession card, 16% of 18-34-year-olds said they or their family had been unable to purchase a prescribed medicine because of cost in the previous three years, compared with just 7% of people aged 55 and over.

The findings come as the maximum general PBS co-payment is set to begin rising again with indexation from 01 Jan 2027.





Editor's Choice: Meet BX Earth – everyday essentials, naturally inspired

In partnership with BX Earth.

DISCOVER BX Earth - an Australian lifestyle brand bringing a little luxury to everyday routines.

Inspired by nature, BX Earth offers a collection of quality Australian-made products that look and smell great, and make everyday moments feel special.

Already established in major Australian retailers, BX Earth is bringing its growing range to community pharmacies around the country, including hand wash, candles, reed diffusers and dog wash.

With excellent retailer margins, attractive price points and products perfect for gifting, BX Earth offers pharmacies



an opportunity to generate incremental sales this festive season and beyond, with new fragrances and product innovation also on the horizon.

For the chance to **WIN** a BX Earth hamper, describe in 25 words or less why you would love to win one and send the entry to info@bxearth.com.au with the subject as 'BX Earth Hamper Competition'.

Interested in stocking BX Earth? Contact Pharmabroker Sales via 02 8878 9777.

New from Swisse Nutra



SWISSE Nutra has released new products in its range of scientifically backed supplements.

Formulated to help reset the sleep-wake cycle and create a better night's sleep, the Swisse Nutra Cellular Circadian Control (RRP $89.99) features the clinically trialled ThymoDream black cumin extract to help users sleep faster in seven days.

Meanwhile, the Swisse Nutra Cellular GL Protect (RRP $89.99) helps to decrease symptoms of indigestion and support gut health, featuring ingredients such as Eriomin citrus exact and GutGard licorice extract to support healthy glucose metabolism.

Lastly, the Swisse Nutra Cellular High Strength NMN ($89.99) aims to boost energy and physical performance within 30 days, according to the brand.

Avene soothes lips

AVENE has released the Eau Thermale Avène Cicalfate+ Repair Lip Balm (RRP $19.99) for dry, chapped lips.

The new treatment helps to relieve roughness and includes ingredients such as C+ Restore, a patented postbiotic that supports skin restoration, jojoba, shea and castor oils to nourish the skin, and zinc sulfate to limit bacterial spread.



Revlon gets glam for the festive season with sets



REVLON is ready to celebrate the holidays with a wide range of sets.

The Festive Glam Set (RRP $36) includes a Lip Treat Glimmer and a Colourstay Multi Player Pencil and Powder Blush, while the Kissmas Collection Set (RRP $46) features a Super Lustrous lipgloss, Longwear Lip Liner and lipstick.

Meanwhile, the Pout Perfection Set (RRP $32) is perfect for creating a glossy and hydrated lip look with two Photoready products, including an Instant Plump Serum and an Instant Blur Lipliner.

For a full face look, there is the Beauty Line-Up gift set (RRP $100), which features an All-In Tubing Mascara, Colourstay Face and Body Glow Lotion, Glimmer Lip Oil, Colourstay Eyeliner and Colourstay Multi-Liner.

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Beauty & Wellness by Pharmacy Daily

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Dispensary Corner

KNOWN as the guilty pleasure among kids and adults alike, dietitians have come to the defence of the revered McNugget, saying they might not be as unhealthy as commonly perceived.

A serving of six nuggets contains 261 calories, 15g protein, 1.5g saturated fat, 0.6g sugar, 1.4g fibre and 0.5g salt.

In comparison to McDonald's chicken tenders (often seen as the healthier alternative), the six-pack of nuggets contains 75 less calories, 0.1g less saturated fat and 1.1g less salt.

Even a standard serving of McDonald's tofu nuggets, which many may assume to be more nutritious, contain more calories and salt than their chicken counterparts, while also offering less protein.

Beyond the numbers, it is often overlooked that McNuggets use chicken breast meat rather than skin, bones and other scraps.

Their low amount of saturated fat is credited to them being cooked in rapeseed oil, as opposed to olive oil, for example, which contains more saturated fat and less omega-3 fatty acids.

That is certainly a lot to conisder during your next late-night Maccas run.



Human oversight gap in AI

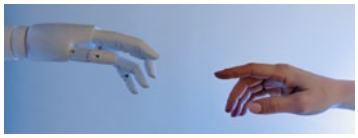
A NEW study has highlighted gaps in the ongoing clinical oversight of AI systems used in healthcare, calling for greater human involvement to ensure their safety and effectiveness.

The study, led by Flinders University, found that the term "human in the loop" - which refers to how people contribute to the development, checking, overseeing and updating of an AI system - was used inconsistently, making it difficult to understand the effect of human involvement.

Published in the *International Journal of Medical Informatics*, the review of 12 studies looked at clinician involvement during AI tool development, such as labelling clinical information or helping design rules.

Eleven of the studies detailed involvement in reviewing the AI system, two described maintenance, and none reported formal processes for ongoing human involvement.

"These findings point to a major research gap in how we keep clinical



AI safe and useful once it enters everyday care," said coauthor Professor Niranjan Bidargaddi, who leads the Digital Health Research Lab at Flinders University.

The researchers proposed a reporting checklist designed as a starting point for clearer reporting and further research into ongoing safety of healthcare AI.

"The TGA and international regulators are increasingly focused on monitoring AI medical devices throughout their use.

"The challenge now is to establish how this works in real clinical settings, including who checks performance, who identifies problems and who is responsible for acting on them.

"Clinical expertise needs to remain part of the process throughout an AI tool's use, with oversight built into routine clinical work," Bidargaddi added. *JM*

Spotlight on heart awareness this week

THIS week marks Atrial Fibrillation (AF) Association Global AF Aware Week, which aims to raise awareness of the heart rhythm disorder.

The theme for this year is 'Know Your Heart Rhythm, Protect Your Future | Beyond Symptoms', which urges Australians and healthcare professionals to look out for AF symptoms.

"Too many people are living with atrial fibrillation without knowing it because AF does not always cause symptoms," said founder and CEO of the AF Association, Trudie Lobban.

"This Global AF Aware Week, we want to reach beyond those who already know they have AF and help more people understand why knowing their heart rhythm matters.

"Together with our partners and communities around the world, we can raise awareness, encourage earlier detection, and help more people access the care they need to protect their future," she added.

The association has launched a social media toolkit - click **HERE**.

Cancer care closer to home

THE Australian Government has committed $1 million for the 2027 Networked Cancer Care grants, making care more accessible for regional, rural and remote Australians.

Individual grants of up to $250,000 are available to support projects running from 01 Jul 2027 to 30 Jun 2028, led by eligible regional, rural or remote cancer services who are working in partnership with at least one larger cancer service.

Projects will test and implement networked approaches to address equity and access gaps, supporting coordinated, culturally safe, person-centred cancer care closer to patients' homes, while also helping to expand the Australian Comprehensive Cancer Network (ACCN).

"Where you live should never determine the cancer care you receive," Cancer Australia CEO Professor Dorothy Keefe said.

"The Networked Cancer Care grants will help regional, rural and remote services work hand-in-hand with larger cancer services, so more people can get the care they need closer to home, family and community.

"Local services know their communities best - these grants support them to design practical solutions and show us what works, so we can share those lessons and improve cancer care right across Australia," she added.

Applications open today and close at 5pm AEDT on 21 Dec 2026 - for more information and to apply, click **HERE**.

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www.pharmacydaily.com.au

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Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

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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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