Pharmacy Daily

Friday 27th Nov 2026



Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

Star Pharmacy appoints new chief

STAR Pharmacy Group is set to get a new CEO with Stephanie Dolan (**pictured**) appointed to take on the role in early 2027, succeeding current CEO David Clark, who is retiring.

Currently chief operating officer with the group, Dolan brings more than 25 years of leadership experience across healthcare, pharmacy and national retail sectors, including a decade in senior pharmacy management roles.

Having begun her career in frontline customer-facing roles, Dolan has built a reputation for delivering strong operational outcomes while maintaining a focus on people and culture.

"Steph is a momentum-builder who loves to celebrate shared wins as a team and we are incredibly excited for this next defining chapter under her leadership," Clark said.

"Combining exceptional commercial acumen with a genuine passion for people, she understands the importance of building strong relationships, empowering teams and creating clear pathways for success.



"Over the coming months we will work closely together to ensure a smooth transition, and I am incredibly excited for the future of Star Pharmacy Group under her leadership," he concluded.

Dolan said she was honoured to be entrusted with leading Star Pharmacy Group into its next phase of growth.

"At the heart of everything we do are relationships," Dolan explained.

"I look forward to continuing to listen, learn and work alongside our teams and proprietors as we shape the future together." *KB*

Call to keep MS drugs on PBS

MS AUSTRALIA has called on the Australian government to protect affordable access to high-efficacy multiple sclerosis (MS) medicines, with a new report finding that PBS-subsidised disease-modifying therapies (DMTs) have generated a net monetary benefit to health and society of $13.2 billion over 30 years.

The report, *Assessing the value of 30 years of disease-modifying therapies for multiple sclerosis in Australia,* estimated that every $1 spent on MS DMTs returned $2.58 in health, economic and societal benefits.

MS Australia CEO Rohan Greenland said progress made since the first MS DMT was listed on the PBS in Nov 1996 must be protected.

"For people living with MS, access to effective treatment can change what the future looks like," Greenland said.

"Reducing relapses and slowing disability progression can help people maintain their independence, continue working and take part in family and community life; lifechanging outcomes that must be central to how Australia values and invests in MS medicines."

The report is **HERE**.

Pregabalin dispensing, overdose dropping

RESEARCH led by the Sydney School of Pharmacy has revealed high-profile media coverage in 2018 around pregabalin poisonings and regulatory interventions introduced not long after were linked with decreased prescribing and overdose.

When pregabalin was listed on the PBS in 2013, prescribing increased more than eight-fold within six years, with an increase in fatal and non-fatal overdoses.

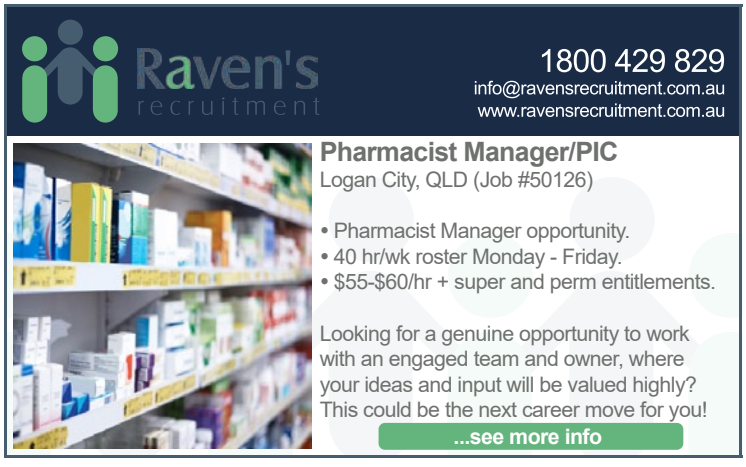
Tighter prescribing and dispensing restrictions were introduced in 2020, while boxed safety warnings and real-time prescription monitoring were implemented in 2021.

Related calls to the NSW Poisons Information Centre and dispensing rates peaked in 2018, then levelled off and started to decline.

While noting that the findings were promising, the authors said the prevalence of pregabalin use in Australia remains high, with approximately 13% of use classified as high risk.

Read the research **HERE**.







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Dispensary Corner

TOBACCO has long been cast as the cancer-causing villain, but in a plot twist, researchers have given the notorious plant a surprising new role: helping fight cancer.

A Danish-led international team has found a way to make the widely used chemotherapy drug paclitaxel from a plant closely related to commercial tobacco.

The drug, which is used to treat breast, ovarian, cervical and non-small-cell lung cancers, was originally isolated from the bark of the Pacific yew tree.

It is expensive because it's only present naturally in small amounts, and has to be made from cell cultures, or synthesised from a substance found in the needles of the European yew.

In the study, which was published in *Nature Chemical Biology*, the team edited and added genes to tobacco plants to see if they could get them to make the drug instead.

After showing this worked, they did more gene editing to make the tobacco plants produce much more of the drug, similar to the amounts in yew bark.

The team said their work provided a 'blueprint', but it would take more work to turn the tobacco into a reliable and cost-effective source of the cancer treatment drug.



PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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Revive Tears - PBS-listed

Revive Tears lubricating eye drops provide long-lasting and soothing relief against burning, irritation and discomfort due to dry eye.

The product moisturises, comforts and refreshes dry, tired and strained eyes.

Revive Tears helps lubricate, hydrate and protect dry eyes.

Suitable for use with contact lenses.

Contains hypromellose 3mg/g.

RRP: $4.32 (available in 10ml packs)

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

Website: CLICK HERE for more information.



Novella-1: The choice for emergency contraception

Novella-1 (levonorgestrel 1.5mg) available in a single-dose tablet is the choice for pharmacists needing a morning-after pill solution for their patients.

It is to be taken orally and is indicated for use within 72 hours of unprotected intercourse.

Great value deals are always available - email orders@novapharm.com.au

RRP: $19.99

Supplier: Nova Pharmaceuticals Australasia Pty Ltd

Website: CLICK HERE to order women's health products now.

Always read the label and follow the directions for use.



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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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