

Today's issue of PD

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

Quit smoking aid

NEW nicotine-free Cyventine from Key Pharmaceuticals can help your patients quit smoking in 25 days.

The Pharmacist Only oral medicine contains clinically proven cytosine 1.5mg.

See the **page four** for more.

Sunscreen misinformation warning

THE Australian Sunscreen Association has warned about a misinformation campaign around sunscreen ingredients, with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) also on alert.

The Australian Sunscreen Association, which is part of industry body Accord Australasia, has responded to a press release from a group called the Australian Sunscreen Council, which uses "selective quotes" from the TGA to cast doubt on everyday sunscreens.

The Sunscreen Council highlighted that the TGA has proposed changes to the rules around homosalate and oxybenzone to reduce the amounts permitted in sunscreens, because they "can potentially be absorbed through the skin and may cause harmful effects if used in high concentrations, over large areas and over an extended amount of time".

However, the TGA added it is a "precautionary measure based on potential signals from animal

A new era of accreditation

TODAY marks the introduction of the Quality & Safety Pharmacy Program (QSPP), representing the "most significant evolution in community pharmacy standards in almost 30 years".

The QSPP is the fourth iteration of the Quality Care Pharmacy Program (QCPP), which was first established in community pharmacy in 1997.

Natalie Willis, chair of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Clinical Governance Committee, said the QSPP reflected both the evolution of pharmacy practice and increasing expectations around healthcare quality and safety.



"Community pharmacy has changed significantly over recent decades," Willis said.

"Pharmacies are delivering a broader range of health services, supporting people with everyday health conditions, preventative care and medicine needs, and pharmacists are playing an increasingly important role in Australia's primary healthcare system."

Willis explained that the QSPP provides a contemporary accreditation framework that builds on the strong foundations established under QCPP.

"[It] supports pharmacies to strengthen quality and safety systems, more clearly demonstrate clinical governance in practice and continue delivering high-quality care to their patients and communities," Willis said.

"Quality and safety are fundamental to community pharmacy practice.

"This is an evolution of accreditation that recognises where the profession is today and supports where it is heading in the future," she concluded.

Pharmacies and other stakeholders have been supported to prepare for the changes since the announcement was made in Mar (**PD** 11 Mar), with a transition program including national roadshows, webinars, conference presentations, as well as practical guidance and resources. **KB**



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Eczema listing means more options

AS THE PBS listing of aZematop (tacrolimus 0.1% ointment, Arrotex) goes live today (**PD** 22 Sep), a leading dermatologist has highlighted the importance of having access to a broad range of management options for this complex condition.

"Atopic dermatitis is a chronic, relapsing inflammatory skin condition that can have a significant impact on patients' quality of life," adult and paediatric dermatologist Associate Professor Li-Chuen Wong said.

"While topical corticosteroids remain an important cornerstone of treatment, some patients require alternative therapeutic approaches because of inadequate disease control, disease location, tolerability concerns or the need for longer-term management," Professor Wong explained.

"The PBS listing of tacrolimus ointment improves access to an established non-steroidal treatment option and provides clinicians with greater flexibility in tailoring treatment to individual patient needs."

Other new PBS listings taking effect today include tofersen (Qalsody, Biogen), indicated for a rare genetic form of motor neurone disease (ALS); triptorelin 3.75mg (Diphereline, Ipsen), expanded to include women's health conditions such as breast cancer, endometriosis, and uterine fibrosis; and Omalizumab (Omylclo, Celltrion) for severe asthma or hives.

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Editor's Choice: The Ordinary offers up lip service with new treatment

THE Ordinary is ready to unleash its innovative new HA + Asiaticoside Lip Treatment (RRP \$17).

Launching on 14 Oct, the lip product aims to target signs of ageing on the lips such as dryness, roughness, fine lines and loss of volume and definition.

The new treatment is packed with fermented hyaluronic acid, micro-encapsulated hyaluronic acid and natural collagen, offering immediate visible plumping, along with enhanced natural lip colour and definition and softer, smooth-looking lips.

Other ingredients include asiaticoside to boost collagen and goji berry extract to reduce the appearance of uneven skin tone.



According to a 2025 WGSN Report in collaboration with The Ordinary, Google searches for 'lip injections' and 'lip filler' have

decreased, although research has shown that consumers are now interested in long-term investment in healthy skin.

Microbiome matters



AS AWARENESS around menopause increases, Nu Allume offers women products specifically targeting their changing skin while supporting the skin's microbiome, which can dramatically change during perimenopause.

The range was founded by Desre Tate to support the skin through perimenopause, menopause and post-menopause, when skin can experience dryness, increased sensitivity, breakouts, redness and oiliness.

Nu Allume's microbiome-focused products target dryness and tightness while creating a stronger barrier and maintaining hydration, thanks to ingredients such as centella asiatica, fermented aloe, bakuchiol and nutrient-rich oils.

Hero products include the Postbiotic Berry Night Moisturiser (RRP \$85), Rosella Radiance Prebiotic Serum (RRP \$90), Aloe & Snow Peach Postbiotic Day Moisturiser (RRP \$75), and Postbiotic Papaya Cleansing Creme (RRP \$70).

Scents for small spaces

CIRCA has released new scented sachets (RRP \$17.95) to bring elegant fragrances into every area of the home, whether it is the wardrobe, drawers, folded towels or the gym bag.

Fragrances include Cotton Flower & Freesia and Jasmine & Magnolia.



Kioni launches barrier-boosting skincare range



KIONI Skin is a range of products focused on protecting the skin's microbiome and developed for sensitive, reactive and barrier-compromised skin.

At the heart of its formulation is XOBiome, a bio-fermentation technology that transforms botanical ingredients into more bioavailable compounds to hydrate and preserve healthy skin bacteria.

Ingredients also include Kakadu plum, Greek oregano and chamomile, peptides, enzymes, vitamin C and bioactive flavonoids.

The two hero products of the range are the non-foaming Hydrate & Balance Multi-Biotic Cleanser (RRP \$69) and the lightweight Barrier Protect All-In-One Serum-Moisturiser (RRP \$109).

For stockist enquiries, click [HERE](#).

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Beauty & Wellness
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Dispensary Corner

BIODEGRADABLE films made from engineered honeybee silk could form the basis of a new generation of 'smart' wound dressings, according to new research from the CSIRO and Adelaide University.

The naturally occurring protein material is used by honeybee larvae to build protective structures in their hive.

It is made from proteins that are strong, flexible and lightweight and can be modified without breaking the material's structure, making it an ideal candidate for programming features into the material, the team explained.

Such features may include infection-sensing signals or targeted drug release, so it is more than just a passive barrier.

Testing found the film was safe and well tolerated during wound healing, and tended to break down naturally, potentially reducing the need for frequent dressing changes.

Of course, this is not the first time bees have helped out humans medically, with medical-grade honey used as a broad-spectrum topical antibacterial agent in advanced wound care to kill pathogens, reduce inflammation, and promote tissue healing.

Workforce challenges hit UTI pilot

AN EVALUATION of Tasmania's community pharmacy urinary tract infection (UTI) pilot has revealed high levels of satisfaction among patients, but identified challenges for pharmacists delivering the service, particularly around workforce issues.

Most patients surveyed about their care provided positive comments about the service they received, and around 88% said they felt better afterwards.

However, while most pharmacists (97%) said they were keen to expand their scope of practice, there were concerns about their ability to do so, with workforce issues (27%), training (23%), financial costs (19%) and training costs (10%) cited as barriers.

Just over half (51%) indicated that the delivery of UTI services had no or minimal impact on their ability to service other customers, with the rest saying there was some (41%) or major (8%) impact.

Many pharmacists noted that to expand scope of practice, they would require additional pharmacist hours to cover the additional workload and to allow pharmacists time to undertake the required training.

Continuity of care was another issue raised, with more than a third (35%) reporting they were unable to communicate with the patient's GP, though many patients did not have a GP or did not want or consent to their GP being contacted.

The review recommended

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that "UTI treatment services should become part of ongoing service provision in Tasmania for pharmacists who meet training requirements and comply with the published protocol".

In a familiar refrain, the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) criticised the evaluation, saying it measured how many services were delivered rather than providing robust evidence that patients received safe, effective care.

"Counting consultations and prescriptions tells us how much care was delivered - it doesn't tell us whether patients got better or whether the care was safe," RACGP president Dr Michael Wright said.

The report clearly stated on the opening page that it was not intended to evaluate the safety and efficacy of the program, and was not set up to do so.

"Findings should therefore be interpreted as evidence of feasibility, acceptability and likely access benefit, rather than definitive proof of clinical effectiveness, avoided GP and ED demand or cost-effectiveness," it stated.

The report is available [HERE](#). KB

Symptoms may be withdrawals

A NEW study led by researchers from Adelaide University has found that mood changes and anxiety following reduced use of antidepressants are most likely due to withdrawal, rather than relapse.

The study followed more than 30 patients as they reduced their antidepressant dose over six months, finding that many experienced worsening of mood and increased anxiety during antidepressant tapering.

Symptoms tended to increase after dose reductions and settle when the dose was steady.

"This is a pattern which is typical of withdrawal rather than an episode of depression or anxiety," study lead Associate Professor of Psychiatry Dr Mark Horowitz from Adelaide University said.

"Relapse doesn't do that - it tends to get worse and worse."

Many Australians take antidepressants for longer than recommended, in part due to worsening symptoms when attempts to decrease are made.

Dr Horowitz recommended that when patients look to stop treatment, they "speak to a knowledgeable clinician about a gradual, supported taper", rather than stop abruptly.

The paper is [HERE](#).



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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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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.