

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of the latest industry news, plus a full page from **MediChoice**.

Osteo flash sale

MEDICHOICE OSTEO-CAPS from Nova Pharmaceuticals provides up to eight hours of relief from osteoarthritis pain. See **page three** for details about a flash sale running throughout Oct.

Diltiazem SSSI

SANOFI-AVENTIS Australia has advised that their two brands of diltiazem 360mg controlled-release capsules are being discontinued in Australia due to manufacturing issues. Cardizem CD 360 has been unavailable since Jun, while Vasocardol CD 360 mg will no longer be supplied in Australia from 1 Nov.

Diltiazem 180mg and 240mg capsules and 60mg tablets are still available.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has made a Serious Scarcity Substitution Instrument (SSSI) allowing a pharmacist to dispense diltiazem 180mg controlled-release capsules in place of diltiazem 360mg controlled-release capsules without a new prescription.

The SSSI will be active until 01 Oct 2027 - learn more **HERE**.

Pharmacists urged to talk shingles

NEW research commissioned by GSK Australia has found that 92% of adults aged 50-69 do not consider it a priority to discuss shingles with their healthcare professional, despite recognising the impact it can have on their health.

The research also highlighted a knowledge gap around chronic health conditions, with only 15% of respondents recognising that underlying conditions such as asthma or diabetes can increase the risk of developing shingles.

In an effort to boost understanding of the broader effects of shingles, GSK, which manufactures the Shingrix herpes zoster vaccine, has run an awareness campaign this week.

The campaign was launched with an activation in Sydney's Martin Place *What's Your Hidden Health Baggage?* Claims Board, featuring TV presenter Nicky Buckley (**pictured**) and others sharing stories of everyday moments disrupted by shingles.

"It isn't only about the pain or the rash," Buckley explained.

"Shingles can claim parts of everyday life that matter enormously to someone."

Infectious diseases specialist Professor Robert Booy said misconceptions about who is at risk can make shingles easy to overlook.

"People can feel fit and healthy in their 50s and 60s and may not think



shingles is something they need to consider," he explained.

"But the risk of shingles increases with age, and may be higher for people living with certain chronic health conditions," he continued.

"For people already managing an ongoing health condition, shingles has the potential to add another layer of pain and disruption to everyday life, including sleep, daily activities and important responsibilities," he said.

Pharmacist Krysti-Lee Patterson is urging fellow pharmacists to start proactive conversations with patients about shingles risk, "particularly those aged 50 and over and people living with certain chronic health conditions associated with an increased risk".

"It's also important that these conversations reach Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities," she noted.

"Pharmacists can help patients better understand their individual risk, the potential impact shingles can have on everyday life, and why it's worth making shingles a priority as part of broader health conversations," she concluded. **KB**

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Andrographis products recalled

TERRYWHITE Chemmart is recalling Noux Professional Immune Defence 30 and 60 and Noux Professional Immune Force 30 and 60, both of which contain the herb *Andrographis paniculata*.

Andrographis has been linked with a risk of anaphylaxis and was removed from the list of permitted ingredients in new medicines (**PD** 23 Sep).

"At TerryWhite Chemmart, patient care and safety are our priority," Michael Beaumont, GM at TerryWhite Chemmart told **Pharmacy Daily**.

"Following advice from the TGA regarding products containing Andrographis, we've taken a proactive approach and initiated a recall of the relevant Noux products.

"Pharmacies have been advised to remove the impacted products from sale and follow the appropriate recall process.

"Customers have also been advised to stop using the impacted products and return them to their place of purchase," Beaumont added.

Learn more **HERE**.

Public holiday Mon

THERE will be no issue of **Pharmacy Daily** on Mon due to a public holiday in New South Wales and some other states.

We will see you again on Tue.

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...see more info



Dispensary Corner

RETIRING early is something many aspire to, but sadly, it may not be good for your brain.

Researchers in New York City found that people who quit work in their 50s may face higher risk of cognitive decline.

After tracking 2,400 Americans in their mid-50s for 16 years, the study found that women who retired early were almost twice as likely to be classed as having mild cognitive impairment compared to those who continued working.

In comparison, men saw their chances of developing cognitive decline increase by 50% compared to their counterparts who did not retire early.

While the research did not determine why this was the case, experts believe it is because working calls on the brain's abilities to solve problems, multitask, make decisions and learn new procedures.

Published in the journal *Alzheimer's & Dementia*, the study analysed participants' employment histories from 1998 to 2014, and performed cognitive tests to evaluate their memory, language and executive function skills in 2016.

"Our findings carry meaningful implications for dementia prevention and public health policy," Dr Erika Beidelman, first study author and postdoctoral research scientist at Butler Columbia Aging Center in New York City, said.

"Employment continuity across midlife may represent a modifiable factor associated with cognition decades later."

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Revive Tears - PBS-listed

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