

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of the latest news, plus a full page from **Cyventine**.

Quit smoking aid

NEW nicotine-free Cyventine (cytisine 1.5mg) from Key Pharmaceuticals can help your patients quit smoking in 25 days - see **page four** for more.

More Andrographis products recalled

THE TGA has advised that three more Andrographis products have been recalled: BioCeuticals ArmaForce, BioCeuticals Clinical ImmuneForce, and Faulding Immune Combat.

More information and the complete list of recalled products is available **HERE**.

ANZCAP prepares for its next phase

ADVANCED Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) is celebrating three years since the formation of the Australian and New Zealand College of Advanced Pharmacy (ANZCAP), the only program formally recognising advanced pharmacy practice across Australia and New Zealand.

ANZCAP provides pharmacy professionals at all career stages with a structured pathway to demonstrate, recognise and build on their expertise, with more than 2,600 practitioners now recognised across 46 different specialty areas of practice.

AdPha is now taking ANZCAP into its next phase, ensuring its pathways and recognitions remain relevant, portable and fit for the future as pharmacy practice evolves - including through the introduction of pharmacist prescribing.

AdPha president Assoc Prof Tom Simpson (**pictured**) said ANZCAP's evolution was about ensuring the profession had the infrastructure needed to support the next

generation of advanced practice and growing specialty practice.

"Pharmacy practice is changing rapidly and we need recognition and credentialing systems that can move with it," he said.

"Endorsed pharmacist prescribing will fundamentally expand what pharmacists can contribute to patient care.

"If we want to realise that potential safely and consistently, we need a national framework that clearly demonstrates capability, supports mobility and gives patients confidence in the care they receive, beyond self-determined scope and skill, to nationally-recognised expertise."

Assoc Prof Simpson said ANZCAP is well placed to be part of that future.

"We already have the foundations: a national recognition framework, defined standards for advanced practice and thousands of practitioners demonstrating what pharmacy professionals can contribute at an advanced level,"



he explained.

AdPha is also working to embed its training programs and ANZCAP recognition within enterprise agreements across Australia, to give advanced practitioners greater clarity about how their expertise is recognised and create a stronger connection between professional development, capability and career progression.

"Ultimately, ANZCAP is about giving patients confidence in the expertise of the pharmacy professionals caring for them, while helping employers identify, recognise and make the most of advanced skills across their workforce," Assoc Prof Simpson said.

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Win your way to APP2027

THE Guild is giving two pharmacy professionals and students the chance to attend Australia's leading pharmacy conference for free, with entries now open for the 'Win your way to APP2027' competition.

The prize includes registration, flights and three nights' accommodation.

Entries close 15 Dec 2026 - learn more [HERE](#).

EOIs to pilot new standards open

THE Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is inviting health services to register an expression of interest (EOI) to participate in the pilot of the draft National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards (third edition).

The draft standards were released for public consultation in Jul (PD 21 Jul), and the Commission will now select up to 140 health services to take part in the pilot between Feb and Jun 2027.

Participating health services will have the opportunity to gain an early understanding of the standards and prepare for implementation, while also providing feedback on implementation and helping refine the final product.

EOIs close 20 Nov - learn more [HERE](#).

"Time to dive in," says Guild

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Victoria Branch is calling on all political parties to support autonomous prescribing by qualified pharmacists ahead of the upcoming state election.

The call follows last week's announcement of scope expansion to include initiating treatment for gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD) and resupplying medication and treatment for menopausal hormone therapy (MHT) without needing an additional prescription (PD 08 Oct).

Branch president George Tambassis noted that countries such as New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Canada have allowed this for around 20 years with positive results for patients.

"In Victoria, we've been dipping our toes in the water, which has provided a win for patients and their associated healthcare



ecosystems across the state," Tambassis said.

"Now it's time to dive in and implement this fully.

"The reforms are part of the three key priorities we're asking all political parties and candidates contesting the 2026 election to commit to, because they give Victorians more options to access safe, timely, cost-effective and conveniently located care through their community pharmacy."

The other priorities are preserving pharmacist ownership and control, and strengthening the regional pharmacy workforce to improve healthcare access. *KB*

Better access to kids' cancer trials needed

AUSTRALIAN children with cancer are not receiving the same opportunities to access clinical trials and emerging treatments as adults, according to a whitepaper arising from the National Paediatric Oncology Clinical Trial Roundtable in Jul, which has also set out practical reforms to redress the imbalance.

Barriers identified include limited international industry awareness of Australia's paediatric oncology capabilities, fragmented data systems, inconsistent infrastructure

between states, uncertainty about future reimbursement pathways, and age restrictions that can exclude children and adolescents from trials despite cancer characteristics making them potentially suitable candidates.

Liz de Somer, CEO of whitepaper contributor Medicines Australia, said Australia had shown that it could compete successfully for global cancer research investment, with a strong reputation in adult cancer trials.

"The challenge is to make sure Australian children can benefit from similar success."

A win for naloxone coprescribing law

A NEW law in the US state of Arizona requiring naloxone to be prescribed in tandem with high doses of opioid medication has been hailed a success, resulting in a four-fold increase in dispensed naloxone.

The new law was in response to the US opioid crisis, with researchers noting that naloxone programs often focused on illicit use rather than patients prescribed opioid painkillers.

Research published in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* found that during the first two months after the law took effect, naloxone coprescribing among patients receiving high-dose opioids spiked by 331% among those receiving 90 to 119 morphine milligram equivalents (MME) per day and by 360% among those receiving at least 120 MME per day.

The numbers dropped over time, likely due to patients already having the opioid reversal drug on hand.

The researchers noted that pharmacists also stepped up, doubling dispensed naloxone to those without a prescription through statewide standing orders, including to patients on low doses of opioids.

The study could not show whether the increase in dispensed naloxone translated into fewer overdoses or deaths, with further research needed.

GO FURTHER. GO PROTECTED.¹

Don't risk your travel plans. Vaccines and preventative medicines may be recommended for where you're going.² Talk to your healthcare provider.

1. Australian Centre for Disease Control. Australian immunisation handbook. Vaccination for international travellers. Available at <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccination-for-special-risk-groups/vaccination-for-international-travellers>. Accessed July 2026. 2. CDC. Travelers' health. Before you travel. Available at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/before-travel>. Accessed October 2026. 3. Australian Centre for Disease Control. Australian immunisation handbook. Available at <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au>. Accessed July 2026. sanofi-aventis australia Pty Ltd trading as Sanofi. All rights reserved. ABN 31 008 558 807. Sydney, Australia. www.sanofi.com.au. MAT-AU-2601898. Date of preparation: October 2026.

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Dispensary Corner

US LUXURY car brand Lincoln has turned the spa experience on its head - by turning vehicles into havens of self-care.

With a massage chair, soundscapes, guided meditation and calming scents, not to mention a panoramic screen on the dashboard displaying nature videos, the Rejuvenate option in the US\$100k (A\$140k) 2026 Lincoln Navigator Reserve provides occupants with a five-to 10-minute spa-like reboot.

And there's data to back it up - Purdue University research confirmed its stress-reduction claims, based on people's heart rate variability and EEG metrics.

For obvious safety reasons, it only works when the car is parked, so you won't be able to take a relaxing time-out when you're stuck in a traffic jam or the kids are fighting in the back.

But it could be useful to reset after the peak hour drive home, a quick pick-me-up before a stressful appointment, or just a recharge during a break on a long drive.

"I actually felt heard and understood"

DELEGATES at Medadvisor's Unite conference last week (**PD** 09 Oct) heard a patient's experience firsthand as she explained how clinicians' use of Heidi's AI-enabled Scribe changed consultations.

Feeling anxious in the lead up to a surgical procedure, Dani Li - who happens to work for Medadvisor - had many detailed discussions with clinicians about what to expect, what the risks were and what recovery would be like, with each consultation recorded and transcribed using Scribe.

Li (**pictured left**) noted the surgery went well, and the recovery went well, "and I think upon reflection, that Scribe played a really important role in my health outcomes, because the doctors weren't busy looking at their computer or typing notes."

"I actually felt heard and understood," she explained.

The AI Scribe tool is currently part of the AI Assist function integrated into Medadvisor Core, with Heidi and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia collaborating to co-design AI-enabled clinical workflows for full-scope prescribing pharmacists.

However, while many pharmacists would be aware of AI scribes, a show of hands among the

delegates found that while some had seen it on the Medadvisor platform, very few had created an account and fewer still - precisely two - had actually used it.

Queensland pharmacist Carolyn Clementson was one of Australia's first full scope pharmacists and an early adopter of Scribe for patient consultations, and encouraged everyone to give it a go.

As she was hesitant to leave the safety net of her own structured consultation template, Clementson said she first tried it with someone she knew well.

"And it worked so well that I never really looked back," she enthused.

Li urged pharmacists to make Scribe part of their everyday workflow.

"When you're in your consultation room and you're having any conversation with your patients, you never know where that conversation's going to go - and it's worth capturing notes for that conversation," she explained.

In addition to enjoying a better clinician-patient experience, pharmacists also benefit from more comprehensive notes that allow improved continuity of care and provide better evidence to support QSP compliance, she added.

Jono O'Sullivan-Scott (**pictured**



right), an emergency department physician and one of the brains behind Heidi, took the audience through the platform's data security and governance credentials, explaining there is end-to-end data encryption and all records are de-identified, as well as being stored within Australia.

He finished with an overview of other AI Assist features in the pipeline, including Evidence, Heidi's clinical research assistance tool, and an agentic layer designed to automate clinical and administrative workflows across calendars, inboxes, and practice portals.

All pharmacies subscribed to Medadvisor Core have access to AI Assist powered by Heidi for free until 08 Dec 2026, and can use it within the MedsChecks, Diabetes MedsChecks, Certificate for Leave and Patient Consult forms in Medadvisor, with note recording also available for any consultation or form. **KB**

Learn more about AI Assist **HERE**.

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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.