

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

PSA's top Qld grad

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced its Queensland Graduate of the Year Award has been presented to Georgia Muir from Griffith University.

The young graduate was recognised for her demonstrated initiative and leadership, contribution to the student community, and characteristics consistent with the Code of Ethics for Pharmacists.

Muir has also demonstrated strong communication and interpersonal skills, with PSA Queensland president James Buckley saying he is very proud of the calibre of pharmacy graduates this year, congratulating all nominees across the state.

TWC launches menopause support initiative

TERRYWHITE Chemmart has launched a new Menopause Special Interest Group, a dedicated cohort of community pharmacists undertaking menopause-specific training and mentoring to better support women through perimenopause and menopause.

Developed in partnership with telehealth menopause service WellFemme, the initiative is designed to strengthen the role of pharmacists as accessible, trusted health professionals for women navigating midlife health changes.

Training will include online learning and live implementation and practice sessions, with the aim of building a network of pharmacists who can better recognise possible menopause-related symptom patterns, support safe medicine use, identify red flags and connect women with appropriate care.

The group will kick off with around 10 pharmacists from metropolitan and regional TerryWhite Chemmart pharmacies, with the potential to expand to 20.



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TerryWhite Chemmart executive GM Michael Beaumont said the launch reflected the growing role of community pharmacy in supporting women's health.

"Women visit their local pharmacy for advice on sleep, pain, weight changes, mood, bladder health, vaginal dryness, medicines and supplements, often without realising these concerns may be connected to perimenopause or menopause," Beaumont said.

"This Special Interest Group is about equipping pharmacists with the knowledge and confidence to have those conversations in a respectful, evidence-informed way, and to help women understand what their next step might be."

WellFemme founder Dr Kelly Teagle has welcomed the partnership, saying pharmacists have an important role to play in a shared-care model for menopause.

"Women rarely walk into a pharmacy saying, 'I think I'm in perimenopause' - they are more likely to ask about poor sleep, joint pain, brain fog, mood changes, bladder problems or vaginal dryness," Dr Teagle explained.

"A menopause-informed pharmacist can help join those dots, start a respectful conversation and recognise when a comprehensive GP assessment would add value," she said.

As World Menopause Day is marked today under the theme, 'Chronic pain at midlife', Dr Teagle highlighted the broader health impacts of menopause and the need for women to receive support beyond immediate symptoms.

"Women may repeatedly seek help for aches, sleep disturbance or fatigue without realising that the menopause transition could be one contributing factor," she said.

"Community pharmacy provides an accessible opportunity to begin that conversation." KB

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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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TWC recognises next generation

AT THE James Cook University annual awards ceremony last week, TerryWhite Chemmart presented the 2026 Prescribing Practice Excellence Award to Sean Fitzpatrick.

The award recognised Fitzpatrick's outstanding performance and engagement throughout the Graduate Certificate of Advanced Practice and Prescribing for Pharmacists.

TWC deputy chief pharmacist Kate Gunthorpe said the award reflected the importance of recognising pharmacists as they transition into expanded clinical practice.

"As pharmacists continue to practise to their full scope, supporting the next generation of prescribers is key to improving healthcare access for Australian communities," she said.

Asthma, RSV and cancer drugs get PBAC nod

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has released the outcomes of its Sep 2026 intracycle meeting, recommending subsidised listings for products used to treat asthma, breast cancer, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and more.

Among the recommendations are Breztri Aerosphere (AstraZeneca), a new form of budesonide with glycopyrronium and formoterol for the maintenance treatment of severe asthma in adult patients.

The listing was supported by Asthma Australia, which highlighted the burden severe asthma can place on people and their families and noted that the product offered another inhaler option.

The PBAC also recommended changes to the period of supply required under the initial therapy Section 100 Highly Specialised Drugs Program Public/Private Hospital listing for clozapine in patients with schizophrenia, from 18 weeks to at least four weeks

where appropriate.

The change means patients could obtain supply from a registered community pharmacy within the first 18 weeks of therapy, rather than having to attend a hospital pharmacy.

With the PBS listing of goserelin 3.6mg implant (Zoladex, AstraZeneca) set to end in Apr next year (**PD** 29 Sep), PBAC has recommended the listing for the 10.8mg implant be made unrestricted, thereby allowing treatment of hormone receptor positive breast cancer.

Nirsevimab (Beyfortus, Sanofi-Aventis) has been recommended for listing on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for the prevention of RSV in neonates and infants born during or entering their first RSV season, and children up to 24 months of age who remain vulnerable to severe RSV disease through their second RSV season.

This follows changes to the legislative framework underpinning

the NIP earlier this year (**PD** 09 Apr), which broadened the definition of a vaccine to allow inclusion of passive immunisation strategies such as nirsevimab.

However, an application for NIP listing of Moderna's mRNA-1345 (mRESVIA) RSV vaccine for older adults was knocked back, with the PBAC noting that an alternative RSV vaccine (Arexvy) was listed on the NIP for the same populations and the PBAC not satisfied that the mRNA-1345 would be as effective.

The PBAC recommended changes to PBS restrictions for ADHD drugs atomoxetine and guanfacine, to align eligibility, broaden access and expand authorised prescribers beyond specialists for treatment initiation.

In another post-market review, 14 PBS-listed antidepressants have been recommended for Unrestricted Benefit listings, with the indication and eligibility criteria removed.

See the full outcomes **HERE**. *KB*

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Dispensary Corner

IT IS common knowledge by now that ultra-processed food (UPF) is bad for you, but new research has revealed something surprising: some of these foods may actually help lower the risk of bowel cancer.

According to a recent study by the US National Cancer Institute, eating cereals, flavoured yoghurts, supermarket bread and baked beans may reduce your chances of getting bowel cancer by up to 28%.

The researchers examined the diets of 461,682 adults in the US aged between 50 and 71, and discovered that those who consumed the most UPFs overall were no more likely to develop bowel cancer than those who ate the least.

When they broke the foods down into specific categories, the experts found that an extra daily serving of UPF dairy - such as flavoured, sugary yoghurts or milkshakes - was associated with a 25% lower risk, thanks to the calcium and dairy protein content, which is known to protect against bowel cancer.

Meanwhile, an extra serving of supermarket wholemeal bread was linked to a 13% lower risk, while an extra 10g per day of fibre from processed fibrous foods like baked beans resulted in a 28% drop.

The study's authors attributed the surprising result to the fact that UPFs can still contain key nutrients, pointing out that breakfast cereals, wholemeal bread and baked beans are all high in fibre, which is known to reduce bowel cancer risk.

Priceline showcases beauty



AT ITS 14th annual Beauty Prescription Live event in Sydney last week, Priceline Pharmacy and atomica showcased the latest health and beauty products across 60 stands, alongside initiatives like the new Pulse Rewards program, Anything Menopause and Anything Baby & You.

Featuring activations, interactive experiences and giveaways, guests also enjoyed an immersive journey mimicking atomica's omnichannel experience in a room dedicated to the beauty retailer.

Brands like Bouf, KIC Wellness, DUE, Luna Bronze, allkinds and Boring Without You displayed new, cult favourite and trending products.

Meanwhile, atomica highlighted key offerings in makeup, premium skincare, premium haircare and Korean and Japanese beauty, with guests treated to a bag of trending products, including brands like First Aid Beauty, Wella, Dr Melaxin, Made by Mitchell and Medicube.

The event also celebrated the refresh of its 10.5 million member-strong loyalty program, Pulse Rewards (formerly Sister Club).

Chief customer officer Richard Pearson said the event has evolved over the years and is a

great opportunity to cement both Priceline Pharmacy and atomica as world-class retail offerings in the Australian market.

"What started as an event to showcase Priceline Pharmacy's health and beauty credentials has now become something much bigger," Pearson explained.

"Priceline Pharmacy has cemented its position for providing the perfect combination of health expertise and beauty experience at an affordable price point."

Pearson also highlighted the success of atomica, with its 13 stores nationally complemented with a recently launched online store.

"Consumer reaction to atomica has been exceptional," Pearson said.

"We saw an opportunity for a new beauty-led retailer that offers wanted beauty ranges, presented in a welcoming environment and wrapped up with outstanding in-store service.

"Whether it's Priceline Pharmacy or atomica, we have a relentless focus to deliver exclusive offers to our more than 10 and a half million Pulse Rewards members and continue to expand our private label ranges to deliver compelling consumer offers," he concluded.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to **Pharmacy Daily's** weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Amit Saha**, head of technical & innovation at LaCorium Health.



Scalp pruritus: treating the scalp, not just the hair

AN ITCHY scalp is a common but often overlooked concern that can affect comfort, sleep and quality of life.

For pharmacists, identifying potential triggers and advising on appropriate care are key to managing scalp irritation and itch.

Considering scalp skin health alongside hair care is essential.

Scalp pruritus may be associated with dryness, dandruff, seborrhoeic dermatitis, psoriasis or reactions to hair-care products.

As causes vary, management should be tailored to the individual rather than relying solely on standard anti-dandruff shampoos.

A targeted approach combines gentle cleansing with scalp care.

Dermal Therapy Scalp Relief Shampoo & Conditioner contains 2% colloidal oatmeal and 2% urea to help soothe, hydrate and reduce flaking, while piroctone olamine provides anti-dandruff support.

For care between washes, Dermal Therapy Scalp Relief Serum delivers leave-on ingredients, including colloidal oatmeal, Canadian willowherb and menthol.

Clinical testing showed reduced itch following application, with relief reported within 15 minutes.

Persistent, severe or unexplained itching warrants further evaluation.

Learn more [HERE](#).

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