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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a **front cover wrap** from **Medadvisor** and a full page from **Cyventine**.

Medadvisor Unites

MEDADVISOR recently held its inaugural Unite symposium, bringing pharmacy and technology together for a look at the future of pharmacy.

Session recordings are now available for those who missed out or would like to share them with their teams.

See the **cover page** for more.

Quit smoking aid

NEW pharmacist-only nicotine-free Cyventine (cytisine 1.5mg) from Key Pharmaceuticals can help your patients quit smoking in 25 days.

See **page three** for more.

New regs pave way for OCPs

THE New South Wales Government has amended the state's medicines, poisons and therapeutic goods legislation, paving the way for suitably qualified pharmacists to prescribe the hormonal contraceptive pill.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, NSW Branch welcomed the changes, which take effect on 05 Nov and will maximise the benefits of the Australian Government's women's health trial, which is due to commence in Feb 2027 (**PD** 26 Oct).

The change recognises Graduate Certificate-qualified pharmacists from the University of Newcastle, University of Technology Sydney and James Cook University to initiate prescriptions for the hormonal contraceptive pill, marking another major step forward for women's healthcare access across NSW.

NSW Branch President Mario Barone said the reform would make it easier and quicker for women to access essential healthcare while



ensuring services are delivered safely by appropriately trained healthcare professionals.

"This is fantastic news for women right across New South Wales and recognition of the significant investment pharmacists have made in advanced clinical training," Barone said.

In other changes to NSW legislation, pharmacists will no longer be required to personally and physically hand over Schedule 3 (Pharmacy Only) medications, record pseudoephedrine purchases, keep a paper prescription for S8 medications if there are remaining repeats, or to report explained losses of S8 medicines.

Learn more **HERE**. KB



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BioNTech opens La Trobe mRNA facility

BIONTECH'S state-of-the-art, clinical-scale mRNA manufacturing and research facility opened last week at La Trobe University's Bundoora campus, marking a major milestone for Victoria's life sciences sector and sovereign manufacturing capability.

Developed in partnership with the Victorian Government, the facility will support researchers to develop investigational mRNA-based treatment options, as well as manufacture investigational candidates for clinical trials in the Asia-Pacific region.

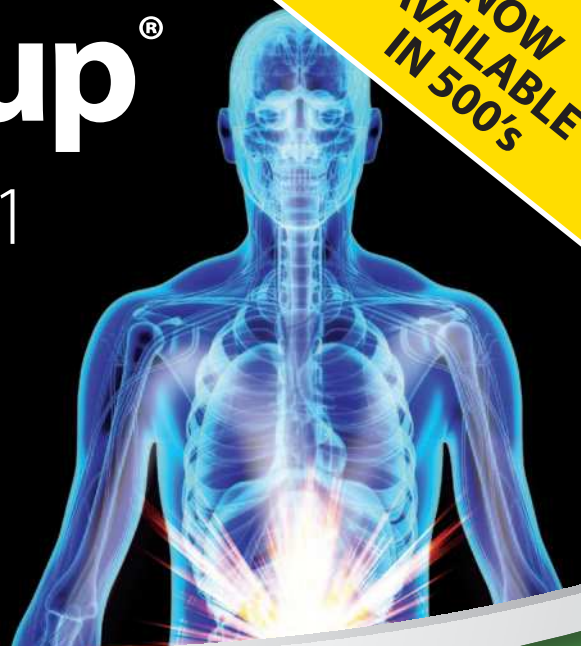
With La Trobe's renowned AI technology set to play a key role, research will focus initially on potential new treatments for cancer, heart disease, neurological and autoimmune diseases, as well as potential new vaccines.



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Dispensary Corner

VILNIUS in Lithuania has found an innovative way to combine the surging popularity of health and fitness-based travel with seasonal festivities via the Slowest Christmas Marathon.

As major cities gear up for the festive season, Vilnius is challenging visitors to forego the Christmas rush and take the time to notice the magic of the season by joining the Slowest Christmas Marathon, which is open to city residents and visitors with no registration required.

Digital maps, available until 03 Jan, will lead participants through decorated streets, cosy cafes and details easily missed at a faster pace.

And if you're not quite up to walking 42km, let alone running it, routes start from 3km.

During the main weekend on 12-13 Dec, selected stops will offer small surprises, with prizes waiting for those who complete their route along the required stops.

Alongside Vilnius' main Christmas attractions, the routes will lead visitors to lesser-known spots, including - for those who'd like a little unhealthy snack to keep their energy up - a bakery offering a famous cinnamon bun.

Concern over medical misinformation rises

GENERAL practitioners' concerns about medical misinformation and AI-generated health content continue to climb, new data from the RACGP's upcoming 2026 Health of the Nation report shows.

"It is clear that patients are increasingly turning to online platforms, social media and AI-powered tools for health information before they speak with a doctor," RACGP president Dr Michael Wright said.

"The rapid growth of artificial intelligence is making it easier for health misinformation to spread online," he added.

The survey of more than 2,700 GPs found that 44% identified addressing misinformation in the community as a challenge in their work in 2026, up from 35% in 2025.

"Unfortunately, health misinformation is becoming

more difficult to identify and counter as AI-generated content becomes more widespread, more personalised and more convincing," Dr Wright said.

"Health decisions are highly personal, and when people rely on inaccurate online advice, it can delay diagnosis, discourage preventive healthcare, undermine trust in evidence-based medicine, and in some cases, put their health at serious risk."

As governments, regulators, and health organisations grapple with both the opportunities and risks created by AI technologies in healthcare, Dr Wright said it is crucial for AI and other innovative new technologies to be rolled out with a focus on safety, transparency and trust.

The RACGP is calling on the Federal Government to invest in the

research, guidelines, and general practice services that support evidence-based medicine. *KB*



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AdPha names resident, registrar of the year

AS ADVANCED Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) wrapped up Medicines Management 2026 (MM2026) on Sat, Laura Triggs was awarded the 2026 KC Leong Memorial Registrar of the Year, and Jordan Scully the 2026 AdPha Resident of the Year.

Triggs was the first pharmacist in the ACT to complete the registrar training program in infectious diseases and antimicrobial stewardship, and

helped establish the penicillin de-labelling service at The Canberra Hospital.

Meanwhile, Scully was honoured for developing an app listing the carbohydrate content of more than 700 medications to support children on the ketogenic diet for epilepsy.

Also honoured were Early Career Pharmacist of the Year Kingston Yeung, and Technician of the Year Akiyo Keehne.

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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.