Pharmacy Daily

Friday 30th Oct 2026

Today's issue of *PD*

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

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 wish to view them.

Learn more on **page three**.

Patients feeling PBS price pinch

WITH new national polling showing that Australians are concerned about the planned increase in the cost of PBS medicines in Jan 2027, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has doubled down on its campaign to freeze the maximum price at $25.

The YouGov survey found that just over half (51%) of Australians believe the maximum PBS prescription price should be frozen at $25, while over a quarter (27%) would like to see further price cuts.

Meanwhile, four in five (81%) respondents said they would be concerned if the cost of PBS prescriptions increased in Jan 2027.

Women were more likely to want the prices remain unchanged than men, while those most concerned about price increases fell into the 50+ and 18-24 years age groups.

Guild national president Professor Trent Twomey said the results sent a clear message that Australians did not want the price of essential medicines to rise.

"People have told us clearly that they want medicine prices frozen or reduced," Professor Twomey said.

"Community pharmacists see the pressure that medicine costs place on patients every day - we know that even a relatively small increase can matter to someone managing several prescriptions or supporting a family member with a long-term health condition.

"Affordable medicines are essential to ensuring patients can start and continue the treatment recommended by their healthcare professionals.

"The message is clear - freeze the maximum PBS prescription price at $25," he concluded. *KB*

Neffy may help in insect-venom allergies

NEFFY intranasal adrenaline (INA) may provide an effective alternative to adrenaline autoinjectors for people experiencing insect venom-induced anaphylaxis, according to a paper published in the *MJA*.

Tasmanian clinicians reported three case studies of neffy being successfully used to treat anaphylaxis that occurred in a clinical setting when administering insect-venom immunotherapy, with no serious side effects noted.

Two of the cases involved honeybee venom and the third was jack jumper ant venom.

The team noted that adrenaline is usually delivered by autoinjector pen, but barriers including needle aversion and reluctance to carry or use it, even in individuals with a prescription, may result in delayed treatment.

"Needle- free adrenaline formulations have the potential to overcome some of these barriers," they noted.

To date, evidence for efficacy of INA in the context of immunotherapy-related anaphylaxis has come from food and aeroallergen challenges.

"To our knowledge, these cases are the first reports of INA use for the treatment of anaphylaxis in the context of insect allergy," the team wrote.

"Although this information is promising, further clinical data is required to give clinicians and patients confidence that INA has comparable efficacy to the intramuscular route, including for severe anaphylaxis and anaphylaxis of all causes," they added.

Access the paper **HERE**.

MIPS leads on emissions reduction

THE Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MIPS) is transforming laboratories into low emissions workspaces, with a nation-leading 80% of its labs now certified by My Green Lab, the UN-recognised organisation focused on building a global culture of sustainability in scientific research.

Delivering an annual emissions reduction equivalent to 1,228 tonnes of carbon dioxide, or more than 500 typical petrol cars, the figures reflect a growing shift from isolated actions to a coordinated, institute-wide change, according to Assoc Prof Lauren May, who leads the implementation of My Green Lab certifications at MIPS.

"We now have more laboratories certified by My Green than any other organisation in the country, of which 11 have achieved Green certifications, alongside eight Platinum and three Gold awards," Assoc Prof May said.

"MIPS has a goal of acquiring Green certification in at least 95% of our labs by 2030."

Emissions reduction actions include sustainable procurement initiatives, optimised practices for ultra-low temperature storage and ventilation, adopting greener solvent alternatives and using renewable energy for all on-site needs.

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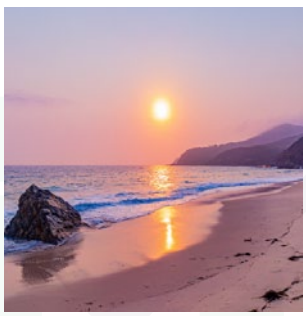

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Dispensary Corner

LIKE many foods, beef can be healthy - or not - depending on what form it takes.

Experts have revealed how to enjoy beef without worrying about your health being negatively impacted.

"Lean beef packs a lot of nutrition into a relatively small serving," Nichola Ludlam-Raine, registered dietitian and author of *How Not To Eat Ultra Processed*, said.

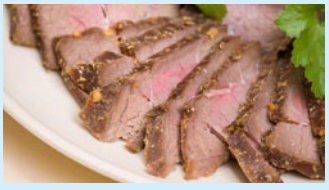
"Per 100g cooked, lean beef provides around 2.5mg of iron, 5 to 6mg zinc and 2.5 micrograms (mcg) B12, compared with chicken breast at around 1mg iron, 1mg zinc and 0.3mcg of B12."

If you opt for a sirloin steak over three chicken wings or thighs (with the skin on), for example, you will be intaking the same amount of calories with three times less overall fat and four times less saturated fat.

"Generally, the healthy cuts of beef that are fresh or frozen are the lean cuts such as sirloin or tenderloin," Professor Duane Mellor, a registered dietitian and science communicator at Aston University, added.

A tenderloin or fillet steak may contain around 3g of saturated fat, while a ribeye steak could contain up to 20g.

Minced beef can also offer a healthy option depending on the fat content.



Pharmacy Choice celebrates 20 years

AUSTRALIAN retail program Pharmacy Choice is celebrating 20 years, having grown into one of the largest networks of independent pharmacies in Australia.

Since launching two decades ago, Pharmacy Choice has supported the success of member pharmacies through its 5STEP program, which supports buying power, category management, multi-channel marketing, professional services, training and business support.

"We've been proud to support members to adapt, innovate and evolve their businesses through incredible change in our industry while ensuring they remain the trusted health destination of choice in their local community," general manager Cameron Macklin said.

"Pharmacy Choice is stronger than ever, our member offering continues to evolve and our focus remains firmly on supporting independent pharmacy owners and their teams to deliver exceptional patient care while building sustainable businesses."

The milestone 20-year anniversary was celebrated at the annual 5STEP Incentive Program awards ceremony held late last week in Byron Bay.

Manningham Pharmacy won the coveted Pharmacy of the Year award, one of three co-owned pharmacies that joined Pharmacy Choice over 10 years ago.

Pictured are Pharmacy Choice general manager Cameron Macklin, Manningham Pharmacy owner Daniel Chen and retail manager Felicity De Bolfo, and Pharmacy Choice retail program manager Rahim Kumri. *MS*

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