

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Dermal Therapy
- Glucojel
- Proctocaine

Therapy that works

DERMAL Therapy has a range of skin and scalp care products, including sebum control, skin repair and sun protection for acne-prone skin - see **page three**.

Soothing relief

LEARN about Nova Pharmaceuticals' fast and soothing haemorrhoid relief ointment, Proctocaine, on **page five**.

CommBank to reduce merchant fees

COMMONWEALTH Bank will be reducing its merchant service fee from 01 Oct, coinciding with the removal of credit card surcharging on the same day, with smaller merchants expected to be most affected.

The fee will drop from 1.1% to 0.99% per transaction for in-store payments on flat-rate pricing, ensuring businesses and merchants can keep the cost of accepting card payments low and help ease the transition for businesses as they move away from surcharging.

"Australian businesses have

New COPD, cancer PBS listings

GSK'S monoclonal antibody Nucala (mepolizumab) is available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from today, becoming the first biologic listed for uncontrolled chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Nucala is indicated for use as an add-on to inhaler triple therapy (inhaled corticosteroid, long-acting muscarinic antagonist and long-acting beta2-agonist) for adults with uncontrolled COPD and raised eosinophils.

"People living with uncontrolled COPD continue to face significant challenges despite optimised inhaled triple therapy," explained Dr Sebastian DiNatale, medical affairs director, respiratory at GSK Australia.

"We are delighted to see Nucala become the first PBS listing for a biologic for uncontrolled eosinophilic COPD, offering eligible Australians an additional

treatment option."

Also listed on the PBS from today is antibody-drug conjugate Padcev (enfortumab vedotin, Astellas Pharma) in combination with Keytruda (pembrolizumab, MSD) for first-line treatment of locally advanced or metastatic urothelial cancer.

"Effective new first-line treatment approaches for locally advanced and metastatic urothelial cancer have been long-awaited," Melbourne-based medical oncologist Associate Professor Andrew Weickhardt said.

"This is a major change to just using chemotherapy in the first-line treatment for these patients."

Keytruda also had expanded indications listed on the PBS from today (**PD** 31 Aug).

MEANWHILE, prescriber accreditation previously required for hepatitis B and C drugs under the Section 100 (s100) Highly Specialised Drugs (HSD) Program has been removed from today.

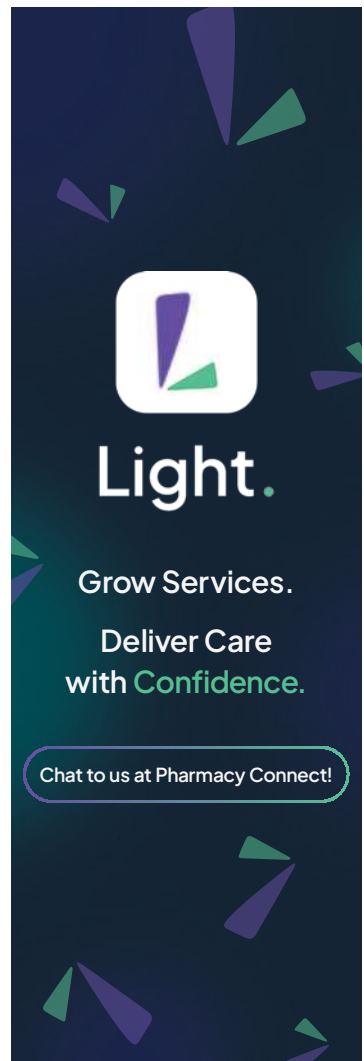
This means any medical practitioner or authorised nurse practitioner can prescribe hepatitis B and C medicines (for both initiation and maintenance treatment) for eligible people under the s100 HSD Program, without requiring prior accreditation as a s100 hepatitis B or hepatitis C prescriber.

By expanding the cohort of health practitioners authorised to prescribe the medicines, the change is expected to improve timely patient access to these PBS-subsidised medicines, particularly in regional, rural and remote areas. **KB**

Spookojel comp

THIS Halloween, Glucojel is giving customers the chance to win a year's supply of their favourite Glucojel jelly beans and bears.

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Dispensary Corner

IT SEEMS almost too simple, but regularly swapping the elevator for the stairs could lower your risk of dying from heart disease by 39%.

Researchers at the University of East Anglia in the UK analysed data from nine studies involving more than 450,000 people who were tracked for 14 years, and found that stair users also had a 24% lower risk of death from any cause when compared to those who normally used an elevator.

"We found a consistent association between stair climbing and lower risk of both cardiovascular death and overall mortality," Dr Sophie Paddock, a cardiologist involved in the research, explained.

The burst of activity increases heart rate, supplying it with a boost of oxygen and nutrients, while also helping to strengthen the muscles that help keep us upright.

"Unlike going to the gym or doing a workout, climbing the stairs is something you can easily fit into your day at home, at work or when you're out.

"It's a good option for people who don't have much time or easy access to exercise."

Further studies would be necessary to determine how often someone would need to climb the stairs to enjoy a heart health boost, researchers said.



Pharmacists to bridge carer gap

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has released a new statement of policy calling for stronger action to support and empower women and informal carers through pharmacist-led care.

The statement recognises that caring responsibilities have become increasingly complex as home-based care has expanded, hospital stays have shortened and digital health technologies have become more widely used.

As informal carers, the majority of whom are women, shoulder the responsibility of managing medicines and supporting family members, their own health and wellbeing often go unrecognised, FIP stated.

"The policy highlights the growing pressures faced by informal carers as populations age and more care is delivered in homes and communities," Dr Virginia Olmos, co-chair of the policy committee, said.

"It argues that pharmacists, as one of the most accessible healthcare professionals, are uniquely placed to help carers



navigate increasingly complex medicines regimens, improve health literacy, prevent medicines-related harm and access appropriate health services," she explained.

The policy calls on governments to formally recognise the contribution of informal carers, strengthen policies that enable pharmacist-led services, invest in education and training, and develop sustainable funding models that improve access to care.

It also encourages pharmacy organisations and education providers to equip pharmacists with skills to support carers through preventive care, medicines optimisation, digital health literacy and safe transitions of care.

The policy is available [HERE](#). KB

Chemists' Own helping kids with cancer

CHEMISTS' Own is raising funds to support kids and families impacted by childhood cancer through the sale of its digital thermometers in pharmacies, with 50% of profits to go to My Room Children's Cancer Charity.

Money raised for the volunteer-led organisation will go towards cancer research and provide practical support for children and their families.

Reflecting Chemists' Own's commitment to delivering affordable, quality healthcare products, the initiative is designed to create a meaningful impact

beyond the pharmacy shelf.

"A thermometer is something many Australians reach for when someone they love is feeling unwell," Daniela Priekopa on behalf of Chemists' Own, said.

"Through this partnership, every purchase becomes an opportunity to support children and families facing the unimaginable," she continued.

"We're incredibly proud to partner with My Room Children's Cancer Charity and hope Australians will join us in making a meaningful difference through an everyday healthcare essential," she concluded.

Make cybersecurity creds visible: Montu

IN ITS submission to the inquiry into cybersecurity for small to medium-sized businesses, healthcare company Montu has called on the Australian Government to transition the planned CyberSmart certification and 'trust mark' to be public-facing and prioritise healthcare.

The company also urged the government to establish a clearly defined cyber security standard, with practical, plain-language and healthcare-specific guidance to help smaller organisations - including community pharmacies - to understand what good cyber security looks like and how to meet their obligations.

The visible certification mark, akin to the Heart Foundation 'tick' symbol, will give patients confidence that their healthcare providers meet the government-recognised cyber security standard, according to Montu CEO Myles Lawlor.

"Healthcare is about trust - when someone shares their diagnosis, treatment history or other health information with a healthcare provider, they should be confident that information is being appropriately protected," Lawlor said.

"Patients don't choose the technology behind their healthcare, and they often can't see how their information is being protected," he continued.

"A meaningful, patient-facing trust mark could give Australians a clear signal that a healthcare provider has met a recognised security standard."



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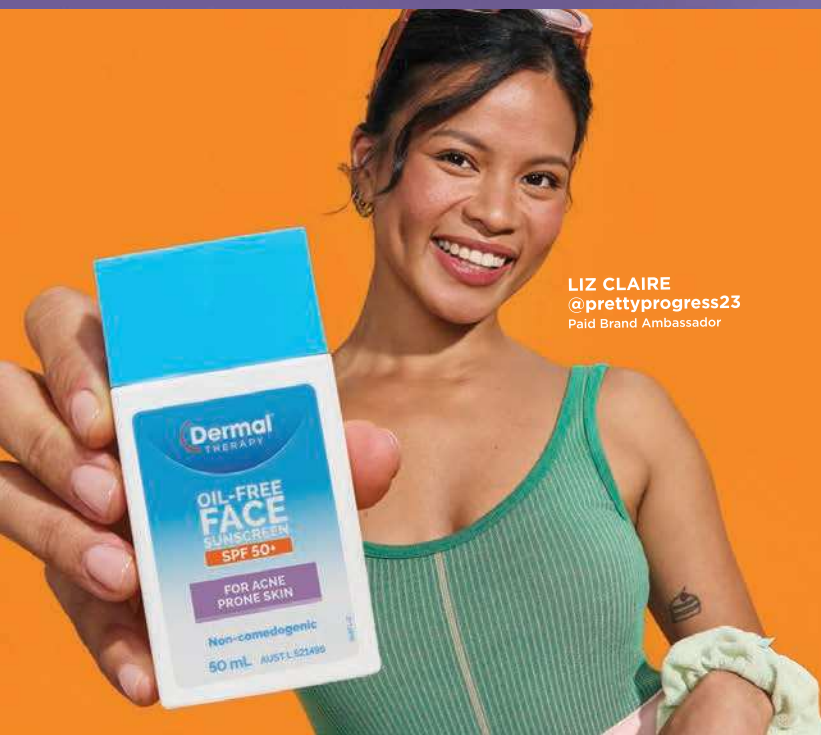


Sun protection for
acne-prone skin



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