

Today's issue of PD

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

Chemsave turns 20

CHEMSAVE is celebrating its 20th birthday and is still 'solely pharmacist-owned for the sole benefit of pharmacists'.

Learn more about what Chemsave offers on **p3**.

Final call for submissions

THE Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is calling for final feedback on the initial draft of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards (third edition), with the consultation closing on Fri 25 Sep - have your say **HERE**.

PSA backs pharmacists in dementia care

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is recognising Dementia Action Week this week by reinforcing its commitment to supporting the vital role of pharmacists in improving medicine safety and health outcomes for Australians living with dementia.

The peak body's registered charity, the PSA Foundation, has highlighted the need for pharmacists working in dementia care to be appropriately trained and upskilled in a practical way that puts people living with dementia first, and is this week providing an accredited educational webinar open to all pharmacy students, interns and pharmacists.

Developed in collaboration with Dementia Australia, the webinar covers identifying high-risk medicines, evaluating the benefits and limitations of pharmacological treatments for behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia, and supporting safe deprescribing across different care settings.

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PSA Foundation chair, Associate Professor Fei Sim, said the initiative reflects the organisation's growing commitment to supporting healthcare professionals in areas where they can have the greatest impact on patient outcomes.

"Dementia rates are rising across Australia, and many pharmacists report a lack of confidence in navigating the complexities of medicines management in dementia care," Assoc Prof Sim said.

"It is incredibly important for pharmacists to understand the roles they play in reducing avoidable hospitalisations, adverse drug events, and unnecessary difficulties for people living with dementia and their caregivers.

"This webinar will provide evidence-based, case-based learning to assist pharmacists in dementia care, ultimately improving health outcomes and quality of life for people living with dementia," she concluded.

Dementia Australia CEO, Professor Tanya Buchanan, welcomed the



collaboration and the opportunity to further strengthen pharmacists' contribution to dementia care.

"There are an estimated 446,500 people living with dementia in Australia in 2026, and a further 1.7 million people involved in their care," Professor Buchanan said.

"Pharmacists play an integral role in dementia care, and it's important that they are equipped with the knowledge to provide evidence-based, person-centred support and advice to people living with dementia, their families, and carers," she noted.

The webinar takes place at 7pm AEST on 23 Sep - register **HERE**. **KB**

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Dispensary Corner

AFTER shaving her bikini line, British woman Christy Collins was left hospitalised and fighting for her life when an ingrown hair developed into sepsis.

The 28-year-old from Bournemouth noticed a small lump in the area, and thought it was just a boil.

Squeezing it didn't help.

Within days it had blown up to "the size of an iPhone 16 Pro Max" - an unusual choice of metric, but let's just say pretty darn big.

"It was sore, and after I squeezed it, it went from a boil to a massive sac cyst that stretched from my bikini line to my bum," Collins told creatorzine.com.

She then became so ill that she struggled to walk, and her GP prescribed antibiotics.

Finally, a concerned friend told her to go to hospital, where the seriousness of her condition saw her rushed into emergency surgery.

"At the hospital, it became traumatic - I thought I'd be given a pill, but when they said I needed surgery, I was so scared.

"They said my infection markers and blood pressure were through the roof."

Collins, an influencer by trade, is now warning others not to dismiss an ingrown hair if it shows signs of becoming infected, adding that a nurse told her it is a common problem and shaving in the area should be avoided.

"The thought that shaving could have killed me is horrible," Collins reflected.

Campaign targets key AF signs

ONLY 2% of Australians can correctly identify the four key signs of atrial fibrillation, according to new research from heart disease education and support organisation Hearts4heart released for Atrial Fibrillation Awareness Week (21-27 Sep).

With an estimated half a million Australians living with atrial fibrillation, a condition that puts them at increased risk of stroke, Hearts4heart is launching PULSE, a simple acronym to help people recognise the key signs of atrial fibrillation and understand the potential impact:

P - Pounding or racing heartbeat

U - Unusual tiredness

L - Light-headed or dizzy spells

S - Skipped or fluttering beats

E - Elevated stroke risk if untreated.

Most of these symptoms may be overlooked or dismissed, including unusual tiredness, dizziness and



fluttering or skipped beats, the organisation explained.

And even when a potential symptom is recognised, the person may not act on it - its research found that while 65% recognised unexplained pounding or racing heartbeat as a possible sign of atrial fibrillation, only 21% said they would see a GP or healthcare professional as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, more than one in three (36%) said they would wait to see whether it resolved or happened again. KB

See more on the campaign [HERE](#).

Diphereline PBS listing expanded

THE Federal Government has announced the expanded PBS listing of triptorelin 3.75mg (Diphereline, Ipsen), which from 01 Oct will include a range of women's health conditions, including breast cancer, uterine fibrosis and endometriosis.

Acting on the recommendation of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) at a special meeting in Aug (**PD** 18 Aug), the move will reassure thousands of women subject to uncertainty around the listing of low-dose Zoladex (goserelin 3.6mg), which is currently scheduled to be delisted from the PBS from 01 Nov 2026 at the request of its sponsor, AstraZeneca.

In 2025, around 13,580

Australians accessed Zoladex 3.6mg Implant or a comparable treatment on the PBS.

Breast Cancer Network Australia has welcomed the announcement, saying it provides women with much-needed certainty.

"Women should never be left asking whether a medicine they depend on will still be there whilst they need it," Breast Cancer Network Australia director of policy Vicki Durston said.

"We acknowledge the work of PBAC, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, Ipsen, Minister Butler and his office, who heard the impact directly from Breast Cancer Network Australia's consumers and clinicians, and responded to this critical issue," she added.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to **Pharmacy Daily's** weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Glen Knocker**, managing director at Silverline Medical.



The science behind heat therapy for insect bite relief

HEAT therapy may help relieve itching by affecting both the immune response and the nervous system.

When an insect bites or stings, proteins in saliva or venom trigger the release of histamine and other inflammatory substances that activate itch-sensitive nerve fibres in the skin.

Applying a brief pulse of concentrated heat activates heat-sensitive TRPV1 receptors, which can temporarily suppress itch signalling and reduce the sensation of itching.

Research has shown that controlled heat can inhibit both histamine-mediated and non-histamine-mediated itch pathways, helping explain the rapid relief reported by many users.

Heat may also alter proteins introduced by the insect bite, reducing their biological activity and the inflammatory response they trigger.

Additionally, increased local blood flow may assist the body in clearing inflammatory substances from the affected area.

Together, these effects can reduce itching, discomfort and the urge to scratch, with clinical studies demonstrating significant symptom improvement within minutes of treatment.

Find out more [HERE](#).

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