



MARCH 2025

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Welcome to our March 2025 newsletter.

The Skin Conditions trial officially closed on 28th February, and we are optimistic about the valuable data it will provide, offering compelling evidence. Thank you for your ongoing support and contributions, providing crucial and meaningful evidence of our value and professionalism to our government bodies.

Thank you, pharmacist day.



This month brings ***Thank you Pharmacist Day*** on March 13 and a day to celebrate delivering critical healthcare, expanding our scope of practice, and supporting our communities every day.

Engage with your community by hanging a poster in your pharmacy and encourage patients to share their stories of pharmacists 'stepping up' on social media. PSA has developed an advocacy kit to help celebrate the impact of your profession, including social media tiles, letter templates and pharmacy posters.

Get your work team, customers, community leaders, politicians and candidates involved.

Find your Thank you Pharmacist Day Toolkit @ <https://www.psa.org.au/thankyourpharmacist/>

Follow the conversation #ThankYourPharmacistDay
Pathology tests

Links to interpret pathology results and how to understand them also provides patient information leaflets. Useful free site

<https://www.rcpa.edu.au/Manuals/RCPA-Manual/Pathology-Tests>

<https://pathologytestsexplained.org.au/patient-information-sheets.php>

Pyridoxine warning.

CAUTION - Vitamin B6 and peripheral neuropathy
The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) received a report of peripheral neuropathy from an individual taking a magnesium supplement, which also contained 4mg vitamin B6.

Review of the TGA database identified multiple reports of peripheral neuropathy for products containing doses of vitamin B6 below 50mg/day. In many cases, people were taking multiple products containing vitamin B6 that did not have a warning about this risk on the labels. At the time, only products with vitamin B6 daily doses over 50mg required a warning about peripheral neuropathy on the label.

The TGA asked for expert advice from the Advisory Committee on Complementary Medicines and conducted a public consultation on proposed regulatory changes. Subsequently, regulatory requirements were updated for listed medicines to strengthen label warnings and reduce the maximum permitted daily dose. The TGA also published a Medicines Safety Update for healthcare professionals and a Safety Alert for consumers.

The TGA continues to monitor reports of adverse events related to this issue, including whether the regulatory changes are sufficient to reduce the risk of peripheral neuropathy with vitamin B6.



MARCH 2025

Greenbaum D, Cheung S, Turner C, Mackinnon F, Larter

C. Aust Prescr 2024;47:186-91.

<https://doi.org/10.18773/austprescr.2024.056>

Shingles Awareness Week.



Australians over 50 are being encouraged to stay aware of their risk of shingles as part of Shingles Awareness Week (February 24 to March 2), with leading Australian personalities sharing their experience with the virus to raise awareness.



PSA hosts a variety of major conferences

and events at the state, national and international level. On this page you will find information on our flagship PSA National Conference, State and Territory Annual Therapeutic Updates and Offshore Refresher Conference.

For any queries relating to any PSA conferences please email conference@psa.org.au for assistance.



I love my pharmacist by _love_this

Zazzle

PSA's National Conference 2025



PSA25

**ICC Sydney: International Convention Centre
1-3 August 2025**

Early Bird registrations are now open!

Closes 28 April 2025. Do not miss the savings!

Consultant Pharmacist Conference (CPC25)



CPC25

2-4 May 2025

Playford Adelaide Hotel – South Australia

Early Bird registrations are now open!

Closes on 16 March 2025. Do not miss the savings!

Offshore Refresher Conference



MARCH 2025

professional businesses that most importantly, service the healthcare needs of patients.



**49th Offshore Refresher
Conference**
14-22 May 2025
Vietnam



General Practice Pharmacist Symposium



GP Pharmacist Symposium
March 28, 2025
Rydges Melbourne



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia
@The Pharmacy Guild of Australia
2 weeks ago



Peppe Raso the NSW Guild Councillor for the South Sydney- Illawarra region, District 7, invites all pharmacies in our region to consider becoming a Guild member if their pharmacy is not already a member.

The NSW Branch delivers a range of services and benefits to assist members in operating

Rural pharmacies continue to face unique challenges and opportunities. At the Rural Pharmacy Forum, "Rural Pharmacy: Adapt, Embrace, Succeed" at #APP2025 you will explore topics like adapting to full scope, leading through change, and streamlining operations for excellence. Mark your calendar for Thursday, 20 March 2025, from 2:00 PM to 5:30 PM – this is an event you will not want to miss!



MARCH 2025

FROM THE TREASURER.



You can also follow Fair Trading on social media for other announcements and reminders.

FROM THE SECRETARY.



Reminder about casual employment changes

Casual employment rules changed on 26 August 2024. These changes include new pathways to permanent employment that start on 26 February 2025.

Casual changes

From 26 February 2025, eligible casuals can provide written notice to their employer to change to full-time or part-time employment under the employee choice pathway. An employer can only refuse the notice for certain reasons.

Fair Trading have new templates available to help you meet the new rules.

Employees and employers can use our new templates to make or respond to a notice under the employee choice pathway.

Access new resources and learn more at [Casual employees.](#)

Other workplace changes

Other workplace changes taking effect from 26 February include:

- new model terms for enterprise agreements and other instruments
- eligible regulated workers can apply for unfair deactivation or unfair termination at the Fair Work Commission.

Find out more at [Reminder about casual employment changes.](#)

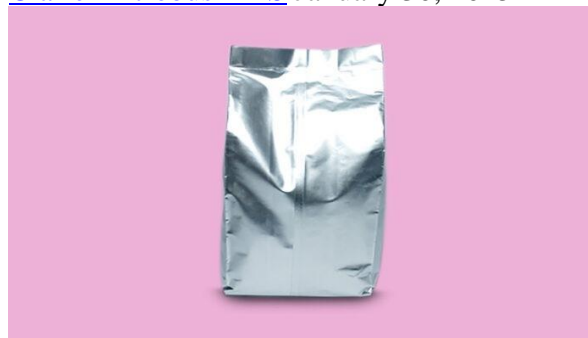
Keep up to date

Fair Trading continues to keep you informed about important workplace changes that affect you.

If you know someone who should get their emails, forward this email to them and encourage them to [subscribe to our email updates](#) so they don't miss out. It only takes a few moments to sign up.

Do foil bag or not to foil bag, that is the question! By

[Claire Antrobus MPS](#) January 30, 2025



Whether 'tis nobler to use the foil bag to avoid the temperature excursions or . . . Putting William Shakespeare aside, what is the point of the foil bag?

Do foil bags keep medicines cold?

The *National Vaccine Storage Guidelines* 'Strive for 5' state that 'foil bags commonly provided by pharmacists when vaccines are privately purchased are not effective in keeping vaccines at the correct temperature – for example, when the vaccine is left in a car or stored in a domestic refrigerator'.¹

Suppliers of foil bags advise they are for transporting medicines that require short-term storage at a constant temperature until appropriate refrigeration can be reached.



MARCH 2025

They are not suitable for long-term storage.² It is unclear whether foil bags provide thermal protection and for how long.

Some pharmacists use foil bags to remind the patient that the medicine in the bag needs to go in the fridge.

However, the patient should still be advised to take the medicine straight home to put it in the fridge and not to rely on the false sense of security that the foil bag will keep it cold while they 'duck into the shops'

What if the patient does not have a fridge?

Not all patients have consistent access to a fridge (e.g. travelling, power outages, no fixed address).

It is useful to ask patients about this, and tailor your advice accordingly.

Cautionary Advisory Labels 6, 7a, 7b and 13 can supplement your verbal advice about storage where appropriate.³

For some medicines that require refrigeration, the approved Product Information (PI) contains guidance about room temperature storage options if refrigeration is unavailable or impractical.⁴

You can also offer to store the medicine or not-in-use containers at the pharmacy until needed (e.g. pending a doctor's appointment, not-in-use insulin pens/cartridges).

Opened containers – in or out of the fridge?

It depends on the medicine.

The manufacturer has determined the stability and shelf-life of a medicine using the container and storage conditions outlined in the PI.

Keeping an in-use container in the fridge instead of at room temperature may extend its shelf-life. This might avoid wastage if the dose changes.

However, cold eye drops and injections can cause discomfort. They should generally be allowed to reach room temperature before they are administered.

In-use multi-dose injections or eye drops should be kept at room temperature unless otherwise advised by the PI.

Dates for your diary

.2 April 2025

IPA Committee Meeting

8 or 9 April 2025

Early Career Pharmacist meeting.

15 June 2025

PSA Cultural Workshop Wollongong

11 June 2025

IPA Committee Meeting

23 July 2025

IPA Annual Dinner

September 2025

CPD event TBA

October 2025

IPA charity fundraising event TBA

If you have an issue, you wish raised at a committee meeting, please contact the secretary at secretary (secretary@illawarrapa.com)



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APOTHEKER**

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and until our next newsletter stay safe and healthy.

Sharon Doolan.

IPA president on behalf of the IPA committee.