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IN UNITS & VALUE¹ HAS A NEW LOOK

NEW PACKAGING

No longer available on PBS



New packaging available mid 2018



New packaging available late 2017

NEW PRICING

SKU	APPROX. WHOLESALE PRICE	RRP
Gastro-Stop 12	\$3.63	\$7.50
Gastro-Stop 20	\$5.27	\$11.95
Gastro-Stop PLUS	\$7.30	\$13.50

**PLEASE CONTACT YOUR
ASPEN PHARMACARE REPRESENTATIVE
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL. USE ONLY AS DIRECTED. INCORRECT USE COULD BE HARMFUL.
IF SYMPTOMS PERSIST, CONSULT YOUR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL.

Gastro-Stop[®] is a registered trademark. Aspen Pharmacare Australia Pty Ltd 34-36 Chandos Street, St Leonards, NSW 2065. *Trade offer is for initial orders only, as long as the initial order is placed before 30/01/18. Please check with your wholesaler for exact prices. 1. Source IMS API OTC Anti-Diarrhoeal Unit & Value (as defined by Aspen) MAT Aug 2017. New packaging timings are an estimate only. Timings dependent on wholesaler stock holdings and sell through rate.



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Today's issue of PD
Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a front full page wrap from Gastro-Stop.

New look Gastro-Stop

ASPEN Pharmacare has released details of new packaging and pricing for Gastro-Stop, supported by a new look website.

The product, which is no longer available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, is "the anti-diarrhoea market leader in units and value" according to IMS data.

Always read the label, use only as directed, incorrect use could be harmful, if symptoms persist consult your health professional. See the **cover page** for details.

TGA warns of fake drugs

AUSTRALIANS are purchasing counterfeit medications online, with the Therapeutic Goods Administration issuing official warnings about two products found to be under-strength and not related to approved items.



The illegal drug imports have names similar to legal medications, and the TGA says its investigations show that a number of people in Australia may have bought the products over the internet.

The affected products include "Tamo 20 tablets" (pictured) which contain tamoxifen at a strength

lower than that described on the bottle.

"Tamo 20 tablets are not related to the approved medicine Tamoxifen Citrate," the TGA advised, adding that the supply of

the tablets is illegal "as they are considered to be counterfeit".

The agency has also raised concerns about Clomid tablets which again are not related to the approved medicine Clomiphene Citrate.

Consumers are being advised to immediately stop taking Tamo 20 and Clomid tablets and take any remaining capsules to their local pharmacy for safe disposal.

The TGA is working with the Australian Border Force to help stop future shipments of the items from entering Australia.

"If these capsules are found at the border...they will be seized and destroyed," the TGA added, advising consumers to exercise extreme caution when purchasing medicines from unknown overseas internet sites.

AIHW diabetes report

AUSTRALIANS living with diabetes experience much higher death rates than those without, with some particularly concerning trends seen among those with type 2 diabetes, according to a report released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The report, 'Death among people with diabetes in Australia', examines the 156,000 deaths that occurred between 2009 and 2014 in people with diabetes who were registered with the National Diabetes Services Scheme, and shows a significant disparity in death rates for both type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

"We found that overall death rates among people with diabetes were almost twice as high as the general population," said AIHW spokesperson Dr Lynelle Moon.

"Overall in Australia, there is a trend toward lower death rates, but for people with type 2 diabetes, these improvements have not been seen," Moon said.

For people with type 1 diabetes, however, death rates fell 20% between 2009 and 2014, which was a larger improvement than that observed for the general population.

The report also showed death rates among people with diabetes had a direct correlation with socioeconomic disadvantage and remoteness.

Overall, diabetes, coronary heart disease and stroke were the most common underlying causes of death among people with type 1 or type 2 diabetes, Moon said.

See the report at aihw.gov.au.

Judy Jacka lifetime legacy

LONG time author and advocate for complementary medicines Judy Jacka (pictured) has been awarded the Lady Cilento Award for her lifetime achievements and contribution of over 60 years in the field of natural therapies and complementary



complementary medicine.

"Her legacy of achievements spans all facets of the field.

"Amongst many other things, she has published eight books on health and healing, in addition to numerous journal

articles and she actively continues her work and educational support.

"The award acknowledges Judy's legacy and contribution of outstanding merit and reflection of high aspirations benefiting the complementary healthcare ethos."

CMA ceo Carl Gibson congratulated Jacka saying, "Judy exemplifies lifelong dedication and passion to natural therapies and

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Wales pharmacy stats

BRITAIN'S national statistics agency has released a summary of Community Pharmacy Services 2016-17, detailing data from the Welsh government on pharmacies, prescriptions dispensed and pharmaceutical services offered.

To access see www.gov.uk.

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Pharmacy Daily

Bayer urges herbal standards

PHARMACEUTICAL giant Bayer has urged the global industry to “look at creating globally accepted standards governing the development of herbal products,” with about 32% of all pharmaceutical drugs currently based on botanicals.

The company issued a statement during the 25th United European Gastroenterology (UEG) Week in Barcelona Spain which looked at Bayer’s Iberogast and functional gastrointestinal disorders in terms of “evidence-based phytomedicine”.

“As consumer demand for herbal medicine continues to grow, the healthcare industry is under increasing pressure to demonstrate

how plant-based products deliver the same standards of quality, safety and efficacy as chemical-based medicine,” Bayer said.

The company cited studies showing over 40% of people turn to natural therapies because of a perceived failure of orthodox medicines to treat their problems.

“However, as clinical evidence for many herbal products is typically non-existent, advising patients presents a professional challenge... doctors are often hesitant to recommend non-evidence based herbal remedies which lack evidence regarding their safety and effectiveness”.

Bayer’s global head of innovation and development, Dr John O’Mullane, cited the company’s Iberogast as an example of an evidence-based herbal medicinal product which caters both for doctors’ demand for medical items with scientifically proven efficacy as well as patients’ desire for natural remedies.

“Bayer is a strong advocate for the growing herbal products market... we believe that these products are an integral part of the self-care landscape, which expands the choice consumers have in positively affecting their health and wellbeing,” O’Mullane said.

FDA cannabis warning

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a formal warning about companies marketing unproved products derived from marijuana that claim to treat or cure cancer.

Letters have been issued to four companies illegally selling products claiming to prevent, diagnose, treat or cure cancer without evidence to support these outcomes.

“The FDA has grown increasingly concerned at the proliferation of products claiming to treat or cure serious diseases like cancer... in this case the illegally sold products allegedly contain cannabidiol (CBD), a component of the marijuana plant that is not FDA approved in any drug product for any indication,” the agency warned.

Union claws back short pharmacist pay



PROFESSIONAL Pharmacists Australia has retrieved more than \$1 million in compensation on behalf of its members over the last 12 months, acting in court or before industrial commissions, through letters of demand sent by union staff, or recoveries by pharmacists acting on union advice.

PPA says this amount of recovery may be higher in coming years after laws passed in the Senate last month providing for penalties of up to \$630,000 for employers who knowingly underpay staff.

Professionals Australia senior industrial officer Jacki Baulch said the common trends in the defaulting employers’ mistakes included underpayment of the award minimum rate of pay, minimum hourly rate of pay not being increased to the experienced pharmacist rate of pay, pharmacists not receiving full compensation for working during hours that attract penalties, or pharmacists not receiving payment of allowances - particularly the loading for staff who were the sole pharmacist on duty and unable to take a break.

Other failures by employers included incorrect accrued long-service or annual leave payments upon resignation, or failure to pay redundancy entitlements or correct compensation for unfair dismissal cases, Baulch said.

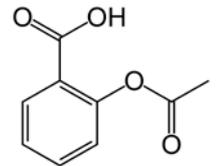
Aspirin vs cancer

SIGNIFICANT reductions in some common digestive cancers were observed associated with regular intake of aspirin in a study out of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The large study involved more than 600,000 people but could only define an associative relationship between ingestion of aspirin and reduced risk of cancer, not necessarily a causative relationship.

Results were significant for five digestive system cancers: 47% reduction in liver and esophageal cancer, 34% reduction in pancreatic cancer, 24% reduction in colorectal cancer and 38% reduction in gastric cancer.

Aspirin use also correlated with a reduction in leukemia, lung and prostate cancer incidence, but not with cancers of the breast, kidney or bladder, researchers said.



Previous studies have found similar links but the exact mechanism is unknown at this stage.

Authors speculate on the anti-inflammatory action and the inhibition of cyclo-oxygenase enzymes, critical to feeding the blood supply of a cancer.

The authors reminded readers that aspirin is not without risk to the gut as well and can cause bleeding as it breaks down the ionic acid-barrier of the stomach.

CLICK HERE for the research.

WIN WITH SOUTHERNATURE

This week Pharmacy Daily and SOUTHERNATURE are giving away their Ultra DHA for Pregnancy and Lactation each day, valued at \$49.95 RRP.



Southern Nature’s Ultra DHA for Pregnancy and Lactation is formulated to support Omega 3 supplementation with a higher DHA to EPA ratio during pregnancy and lactation. This one-a-day product has an IFOS 5-star rating for purity, potency and freshness to give women a complete peace of mind to consume during pregnancy and lactation. For more info **CLICK HERE**.

To win, be the first person from SA or NT to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

The fish oil used in Southern Nature’s Ultra DHA for Pregnancy & Lactation is concentrated and sourced from wild caught fish? True or False

Check here tomorrow for today’s winner.

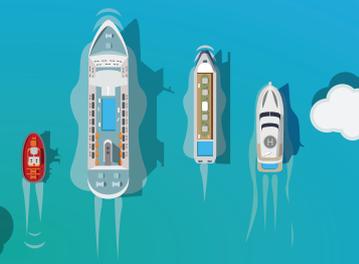
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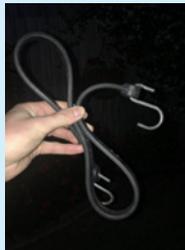
AN ANTIVENOM alert last week turned out to be an anticlimax, due to a case of mistaken identity by a panicky Queensland woman.

The Sippy Downs resident rang her local snake catcher about a purported intruder, frantically saying "I think there is a snake in the backyard, I am sitting still for the time being, can you get someone out as soon as possible?"

The reptile expert, Stuart McKenzie, wrote on Facebook that "she seemed quite stressed over the phone and I got someone there ASAP".

However once the snake catcher arrived, rather than a red-bellied black snake, the offending beast (pictured below) turned out to be a rubber strap.

"They both sort of had a laugh, in the end I think she was a bit relieved it wasn't a snake," he said.



A BAR in the Israeli city of Jaffa is clearly targeting a female demographic with the launch of a so-called "Bloody Hour" which gives menstruating women a 25% discount on their drinks.

The ladies who own the bar said females who have their period "deserve a favour," adding that they hoped it would also open up discussion of a taboo topic.



TGA nods FreeStyle for kids

CHILDREN can now be liberated from the pain of routine finger pricks through continuous diabetes sensing technology Abbott's FreeStyle Libre which the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has now approved for children aged 4-17 years.

The TGA, which had formerly approved the product for use in adults (PD 03 Jun 16), has granted an expanded indication to include children and teens aged four to 17 years with diabetes mellitus and who are supervised by a caregiver who is at least 18 years of age.

This means that Australian children living with insulin dependent diabetes now have



access to a system that does not get in the way of a fun, active life and is easier and less painful than traditional finger prick testing.

One of the big advantages of the FreeStyle Libre is that parents and carers can now wave a reader over a sensor (worn on the back of the child's arm) to assess their glucose levels, day or night, without the inconvenience of a fingerprick.

Ultimately, the extended indication will help redefine how younger Australians living with diabetes, their parents and caregivers manage their diabetes.

Australia is one of the first countries outside of Europe to have access to FreeStyle Libre, the company said.

Abbott is currently working with health authorities in Australia to seek reimbursement for FreeStyle Libre on the National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS), and this expanded indication is further reinforcement of the value of a technology that has been described as "life-changing" by the thousands of Australians who've used it.

VPA highlights "unusual case"

THE Victorian Pharmacy Authority has published details of an unusual case brought to its attention by a pharmacist, who was shown a medicine dispensed elsewhere with all the usual prescription label details - except the name, address and telephone number of the pharmacy that supplied it.

Apparently the pharmacy in question had recently changed ownership and installed new dispensing software, and because new labels had not yet been obtained from a commercial printer and staff unfamiliarity with the program, the content details were not printed by the computer on each label as a temporary measure.

"What was astonishing is that no one at the pharmacy noticed the omission, which persisted for some weeks affecting potentially thousands of dispensed medicines," the VPA said in a circular distributed yesterday to Victorian pharmacists.

EU guideline adoption consultation

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is seeking feedback on proposals for Australia to adopt European Union guidelines relating to clinical development of fixed combination medicinal products, anti-infectives for systemic use, influenza vaccines, pharmacovigilance matters, clinical trials, plasma-derived medical products and several others.

See details at tga.gov.au.

Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

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