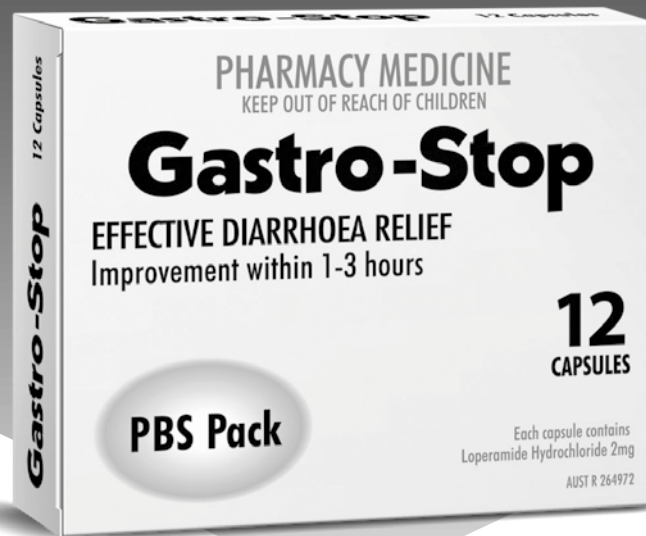


BACK IN BLACK

PBS from 1st April



GASTRO-STOP RETURNS TO THE PBS

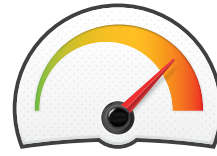
Look for the **NEW** black & white PBS packaging

Product Description	Sigma PDE	API PDE	SYMBION PDE	CHS PDE	CH2 PDE	Approx. Wholesale Price*	Discount	Approx. NIS*
Gastro-Stop PBS ONLY 12's	283556	33452	518034	GASC12PBS	2381249	\$1.50	No Discount	\$1.50

Treatment of acute diarrhoea. Always read the label. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist consult your health professional. Distributed by Aspen Pharmacare Australia Pty Ltd 34-36 Chandos Street, St Leonards, NSW 2065. ASPEG0022. February 2018. Trademarks are owned by or licensed to the Aspen Group of companies

*Please check with your wholesaler for exact pricing.

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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a front cover wrap from Gastro-Stop.

Gastro-Stop PBS

ASPEN Pharmicare Australia has taken feedback from pharmacies regarding Gastro-Stop for chronic diarrhoea patients and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders (ATSI).

As a result the brand is offering a PBS-only option for these patients which becomes available this Sun.

Starting 01 Apr, Gastro-Stop PBS-only 12 packs can be dispensed on the PBS, and importantly, this product will not attract a brand price premium.

See today's **cover wrap** for more.

Shortages consult

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is seeking feedback from interested stakeholders on a proposal around requirements for medicine sponsors confidential reporting of medicines shortages to the TGA.

It is proposed that the communication would need to classify the shortage under a revised medicines shortages protocol defining the potential patient impact which, if it is either "extreme" or "high", is mandated to be published via the Medicines Shortages Information Initiative (MSII) on the TGA website.

The consultation seeks input on how the management and communication of medicines shortages are to be implemented.

Go to tga.gov.au for documents.

New PSA CEO appointed

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced the appointment of Graham Catt (pictured) as its new ceo, to take over from Lance Emerson who resigned late last year after three and a half years in the role (PD 10 Nov 17).



PSA national president Dr Shane Jackson welcomed the appointment, saying Catt was a highly experienced and influential executive with 15 years of experience leading organisations.

"Graham has a proven track record of leading transformation and strategic growth of national associations, including the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and Australian Veterinary Association where he has worked for the past decade," Jackson said.

"He has achieved success by engaging with and influencing key stakeholders and Government, and significantly grown membership in his association roles."

Jackson expressed his confidence in Catt's ability to lead strategically saying pharmacists would be "well represented, recognised and rewarded as vital health practitioners".

"It's an exciting time for PSA and the profession in Australia – and having someone of Mr Catt's calibre to help lead the peak body for all pharmacists is a positive step for the future."

Catt said he was honoured to accept this important leadership

role for PSA and Australia's pharmacy profession.

"I am delighted to be joining an organisation with a strong strategic vision, including for membership growth, advocacy and

professional development to support all pharmacists, no matter what their scope of practice.

"I look forward to working with PSA's members, National Board, Branch Committees, corporate partners and key stakeholders as well as other pharmacy leaders to pursue PSA's vision of improving Australia's health through excellence in pharmacist care," the new appointee said.

Catt will start at the PSA in Jun.

Opioid substitution

A VICTORIAN parliamentary committee has recommended government funding for opioid substitution therapy (OST) dispensing fees, as a way of boosting access to the programs.

The Inquiry into Drug Law Reform has also recommended expanding OST including enhancing the role of nurse practitioners to prescribe the therapy, and the expansion of the program to include other controlled and pharmaceutical grade opioids.

The committee raised the possibility of a sliding scale of dispensing fees based on the quantities of drugs being issued, "to encourage fewer amounts to be dispensed where appropriate".

Hunt at TWC class

FEDERAL Health Minister Greg Hunt will address an expected 400 strong audience of pharmacists on Tue 17 Apr, as part of TerryWhite Chemmart's upcoming annual three-day Masterclass event.

Other highlights of the Melbourne Masterclass will be a focus on opportunities presenting themselves around the MyHealth Record opt out transition.

TWC has worked closely with The Australian Digital Health Agency over the past four months and two of its clinical leads, Vicki Ibrahim and Shane Jackson will discuss digital health considerations in primary care.

CEO Anthony White said digital health was a crucial initiative, and the pharmacy group has made MyHealth Record an important focus of its strategy which also includes providing customers with an exclusive app which will provide medication and health services management.

He said the Masterclass would also feature sessions on other key industry issues such as chronic pain management, and the role pharmacists play in immunisation and preventable diseases.

New Hep-C Rx option

GILEAD Sciences has announced that combination drug Vosevi (sofosbuvir with velpatasvir and voxilaprevir), the first single tablet for the re-treatment of chronic hepatitis C infection in adults who have failed previous treatment with direct-acting antivirals, was added to the ARTG yesterday.

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Dispensary Corner

THEY'RE calling it the yucky ducky controversy. Scientists in Switzerland and Illinois, USA have confirmed what many parents have long suspected - bathtime toys are actually a haven for "potentially pathogenic bacteria". After testing the contents of several rubber duckies the researchers found a range of bacteria including Legionella and Pseudomonas aeruginosa, which is "often implicated in hospital-acquired infections". Published in the journal *Biofilms and Microbiomes*, the study found up to 75 million bacteria and fungus cells per square centimetre in the duck's innards, fed by "low quality polymers" in the plastic materials along with bath contaminants and human excretions from that occasional "code brown" in the bath.



A US man has completed an unusual fundraising challenge, after eating the same fast food every day for 500 days. Bruce Wayne - like his Batman namesake - is a superhero to cancer sufferers for his effort which saw Mexican chain Chipotle donate more than \$5,000 to a research charity in honour of the culinary endurance feat. He ate off the menu daily to break a previous 425-day streak set by another taco aficionado.

PDL warns on S8 dispensing

PHARMACEUTICAL Defence Limited has noted a recent AHPRA investigation of a pharmacist proprietor, alleging that the pharmacy failed to appropriately control the dispensing of Endone to an employee of an aged care facility.

Pharmacists at the pharmacy had dispensed the drug following receipt of medication charts from the facility, which comprised a cover page detailing the requested medication and the corresponding drug chart.

In the event that the pharmacy could not locate a current script on file, the medication was nevertheless supplied to a staff member of the facility in the interests of continuity of supply.

Although the pharmacy owner had not personally dispensed the drug, he was cautioned and had a one-off audit condition imposed.

AHPRA's report noted that a pharmacy proprietor "must maintain an awareness of the manner in which the pharmacy business is being conducted,

and where necessary intervene to ensure laws, standards and guidelines are adhered to".

AHPRA also investigated at least three of the pharmacists involved in the dispensing of the drug, with all three cautioned and reminded of their dispensing obligations.

PDL said the case sent a clear message that the Board expected proprietor pharmacists to ensure that staff under their control were lawfully dispensing medications.

It was also highlighted that the supply of drugs under "owing prescriptions" is not supported by legislation.

MEANWHILE PDL has also warned of a potential trap in dispensing the Kalma brand of alprazolam 0.5mg, with a high chance of making

a selection error between the 10s and 50s versions (pictured) due to identical label graphics and a red cap.



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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See azamarclubcruises.com.

MSC Cruises Web Deal of the Week

MSC Lirica is on sale for a 7-night Mediterranean Cruise departing Venice every Fri from 06 Apr to 25 Oct 2018, visiting Italy, Greece and Croatia, including a full day, 9.00am to 10.00pm in Mykonos.

With prices ranging from \$799 to \$2,509 per person, every budget is catered for with the unsurpassed dining, excursion and other package options tailored to each individual.

See msccruises.com.au.

Win with Evodia

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and EVODIA are giving away a Life's Little Pleasures gift set valued at \$41.90RRP.

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Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Donna Delgado from Terrywhite Chemmart Woodlake Pharmacy.