

## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today has two pages of news, plus a full page from **APP2016**.

## Sandomigran issues

**AFT** Pharmaceuticals has provided an update on the availability of Sandomigran (pizotifen) which had been impacted by packaging problems at a manufacturing facility in Europe.

Sandomigran is used for interval treatment of vascular headaches.

AFT md Hartley Atkinson said 10,000 packs, or almost one month's worth of stock, was released from the company's warehouse last week and has already reached wholesalers.

An additional 4,600 packs were dispatched to wholesalers yesterday, and now further bulk tablet stock has also been delivered for packing in Sydney at CPSA.

Atkinson said this means a total of 38,000 packs will be available during this month which will be released in batches of 10,000 to get stock to wholesalers and pharmacies as soon as possible.

The shipments, comprising more than three months of stock, will be shipped by the end of this month which is expected to clear the current backlog.

He said a further 38,000 packs of Sandomigran had been promised in Apr.

Pharmacists with concerns can contact AFT Pharmaceuticals by calling 1800 238 742.

## PBS spending 10 year low

**RECENTLY** released data from the Productivity Commission has confirmed that the per capita cost of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme has dropped to its lowest level in a decade.

The figures were highlighted by the Medicines Partnership of Australia - a coalition of the Pharmacy Guild, Pharmaceutical Society, Medicines Australia, the Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association, the Australian Self-Medication Industry and the National Pharmaceutical Services Association.

The Partnership says the government should now acknowledge that further cuts to the PBS are unnecessary.

"In accordance with the National Medicines Policy it is important now to provide stability to ensure Australia's world-class subsidised medicine system is maintained," the group said in a statement.

The Productivity Commission Report on Government Services

## Diamox recall alert

**ASPEN** Pharma and Arrow Pharma, in consultation with the TGA, are recalling one batch of acetazolamide 250 mg tablets (Diamox).

The affected batch number is CD485 with expiry date Dec 2016, some bottles of which may have been contaminated with penicillium and/or aspergillus fungi.

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## Maxagra warning

**THE** TGA has warned that a product called Maxagra capsules poses a serious risk to health and should not be taken.

After testing it's been found that the capsules contain the undeclared substances sildenafil and oxytetracycline.

## Win with Efamol

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Efamol are giving away a bottle of Efamol Efalex Original Brain Formula 500mL liquid each day.

Efamol Efalex with omega nutrients from fish oil and evening primrose oil may assist cognitive process such as learning and concentration. Always read the label. Use only as directed. CHC70544-04/15. To find out more visit [www.planethealth.com.au](http://www.planethealth.com.au)

To win, be the first person from SA or NT to send the correct answer to

[comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Name three important benefits of Efamol Brain.

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



## April PBS pricing out

**THE** Health Department has released indicative pricing for the 2016 April Price Disclosure Cycle.

The pricing is being made available in advance of the effective date in order to assist companies and other stakeholders.

The biggest reductions, of almost 40%, apply to celecoxib capsules 100mg which have an ex-manufacturer price of \$17.59 for a pack of 60, dropping to just \$10.80 effective 01 Apr.

Iron polymaltose complex (Ferrosig) drops 30% to \$11.72.

The full list of indicative pricing is now online at [pbs.gov.au](http://pbs.gov.au).

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## 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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### Valentine's Day Dorchester Specials

**LOCATED** in some of the most iconic destinations worldwide, Dorchester Collection hotels will be celebrating Valentine's Day with romantic overnight packages.

Right in the heart of London with outstanding views over Hyde Park, The Dorchester romantic overnight package for two starts at £570 for a Superior King Room per night.

The contemporary 45 Park Lane located in the centre of Mayfair offers an overnight package from £655 for a Superior King Room.

Other Dorchester weekends include Coworth Park, Le Meurice (Paris), Hôtel Plaza Athénée, Le Richemond (Geneva), Hotel Principe di Savoia and The Beverly Hills Hotel.

See [dorchestercollection.com](http://dorchestercollection.com).

### Canberra Craft Beer & Cider Festival -19 Mar

**CLOSER** to home, the gardens of the heritage Mercure Canberra in Braddon will host the festival for drinkers, with live bands, food and family entertainment.

Mercure Canberra has a special deal at \$169 per room per night for two nights 18 and 19 Mar.

For festival information go to [www.canberrabeerfest.com.au](http://www.canberrabeerfest.com.au).

## ASMI backs codeine OTCs

**THE** Australian Self-Medication Industry says it's prepared to accept a reduction in pack sizes for codeine-containing cold and flu products, in order to maintain the items' existing Schedule 2 access.

According to ASMI's submission to the supplementary consultation over the scheduling of OTC codeine medicines, the organisation is supporting regulatory options that reduce the risk of codeine misuse, "whilst maintaining pharmacy access for the vast majority of consumers who use OTC codeine medicines safely and responsibly".

ASMI ceo Deon Schoombie said the organisation doesn't support up-scheduling of codeine and is instead proposing targeted measures including warning statements, smaller pack sizes and a real-time monitoring system for community pharmacy.

Schoombie confirmed that ASMI has been working with the Pharmacy Guild to develop and refine its prototype real-time monitoring system, which will record customer details, recent purchases, product information and indications for supply or refusal.

"Information entered into the system will be linked in real time, allowing pharmacists to accurately identify consumers who purchase OTC codeine analgesics at multiple pharmacies," Schoombie said.

Pharmacists will be prompted to provide these consumers with information and advice to assist those who may be having problems with chronic pain, dependence or misuse, and refer them to their GP or pain clinic as appropriate.

Schoombie said ASMI also supports limiting packs of OTC codeine analgesics to three days' supply, a quantity he said is sufficient to help deal with acute pain while also ensuring more frequent contact with a health care professional if further pain relief is required.

The TGA is now considering the submissions received during the consultation period on codeine, which closed last Friday.

## Med safety updates

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued its latest Medicines Safety Update highlighting changes for three products.

Immunosuppressant mycophenolate mofetil has new contraindications.

Smoking cessation therapy varenicline (Champix) adds risks of psychiatric symptoms and alcohol interactions.

Multiple sclerosis drug baclofen has a potential contamination.

Go to [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

## DISPENSARY CORNER

**THERE** are many ways you can celebrate the birth of a new baby but here's a novel one: serving up placenta pizza and cocktails!

Yes, that's right, a British couple got experimental in the kitchen to mark the arrival of their second child Nellie.

Want to know their secret recipes? For the pizza (pictured below) the father fried the placenta in onion, garlic and seasoning and it tasted like "spicy liver".

The cocktails were strawberry daiquiri with blended placenta mixed though. The consensus was that the drinks tasted "delicious".

Father, Tom Maddock said he would recommend placenta to anyone who eats meat.

"Some friends thought I was a weirdo for eating it but it's no different to eating something like black pudding," he said.

"At least you know where it's come from and you don't get more organic than your wife's placenta".

It's widely known of course that many animals normally eat the placenta after giving birth.

And wait, it gets better. The couple even invited friends over (pictured below) to share in their placenta feast.



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