



## HIV s100 Prescribers' Information Sheet

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### Famciclovir approved for plwha

Patients can now benefit from the April 1 PBS listing of a higher strength antiviral medication for the treatment of oral herpes. Famvir (famciclovir 500 mg) is now available for both episodic treatment and suppressive therapy of moderate to severe recurrent oral or labial herpes in immuno-compromised patients.

According to Darren Russell, Director of Sexual Health at Cairns Base Hospital in Queensland, this is good news for the HIV group of patients who typically experience larger, more severe and more frequent cold sore outbreaks on the lips and in the mouth.

The new listing also means patients just need to take 1 tablet twice daily, instead of 2 tablets twice daily. From a clinician's point of view, the new listing also benefits those HIV patients with both cold sores and genital herpes, as both conditions can now be treated by the one medication.

### TGA approves darunavir

Prezista (darunavir) was registered by the TGA on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2007 for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in Australia and has been approved with the following indication: *Prezista (with ritonavir 100mg as pharmacokinetic enhancer) is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for treatment of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1) infection in heavily pre-treated adults with evidence of viral replication, who have HIV-1 strains resistant to multiple protease inhibitors.*

This indication is based on the results of analysis of plasma HIV-RNA levels and CD4 cell counts in two controlled studies of 24 weeks duration in clinically advanced, 3 class antiretroviral (NRTI, NNRTI, PI) experienced adults. In deciding to initiate therapy with darunavir, careful consideration should be given to treatment history of the individual patient and the patterns of mutations associated with different agents. Genotypic or phenotypic testing should be performed to guide the use of darunavir.

The approved dose of Prezista is 600mg (2 x 300mg tablets), taken twice daily with 100mg ritonavir and food.

Prezista is currently available on a compassionate supply basis. For information regarding this supply please contact Danae Brown at Tibotec, a division of Janssen-Cilag Australia on 0406 754 581

### Amprenavir removed

Amprenavir (agenerase) has been removed from the program. Due to low demand, GlaxoSmithKline Australia advised that Agenerase capsules (150mg x 240 & 50mg x 480) and Agenerase solution (15 mg/mL x 240 mL) would be deleted from the Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits on the 1 April 2007.

Fosamprenavir (Telzir<sup>®</sup>), the prodrug of Agenerase (amprenavir) remains available in the marketplace and where appropriate, may be considered as an alternative for those patients currently on Agenerase therapy.

### Sexual Health Medicine – free!

ASHM has a few free copies of the highly acclaimed *Sexual Health Medicine* edited by Darren Russell, David Bradford and Christopher Fairley. Please email [adrian.ogier@ashm.org.au](mailto:adrian.ogier@ashm.org.au) to be sent your copy

### National NPEP guidelines

Go here to download the new National NPEP guidelines: <http://www.ashm.org.au/pep-guidelines/>

## Benzathine Penicillin

Benzathine Penicillin 0.9mg IMI has a **reviewed protocol** regarding its preparation and administration. The manufacturer of the Pan product has advised us that 1% lignocaine (4mLs per vial) may be substituted for 'Water for injection'. Please note that the protocols issued by the NT and WA health departments recommend a 0.5% lignocaine solution. The manufacturer has also advised that lignocaine should not be used in children less than 30 months. The protocol for preparation of this drug issued by the Canadian Health Authority can be found here: [http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/std-mts/protocol\\_e.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/std-mts/protocol_e.html)

## Mentoring

1 CME point per hour

If you haven't already, please register your mentor partnership with ASHM. The time spent consulting - face-to-face, by phone or email - is cumulative and every 60 minutes earns 1 CME point for both parties. If you'd like to be mentored or you'd like to mentor a new prescriber or existing low caseload prescriber just email us at [primarycare@ashm.org.au](mailto:primarycare@ashm.org.au)

## IAS Conference in Sydney – Short Course and scholarships

5 CME points

We're running a full 3-day **Short Course in HIV Medicine** in Sydney from 19 – 21 July. You may register online for any module at <http://www.ashm.org.au/courses/>

Scholarships are available for non-Sydney based prescribers to attend the **19<sup>th</sup> ASHM Conference incorporated into IAS 2007** from 22-25 July at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre.

To receive a scholarship form please email [hiba.jebeile@ashm.org.au](mailto:hiba.jebeile@ashm.org.au)

## Stigma bookmark survey

You'll find ten STI check-up bookmarks enclosed with this month's information sheet. STIGMA would like to hear from you regarding their usefulness at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=770222541892>

## Case Discussion in June

2 CME points

David Puls and Sally Cameron are guest presenters at the next HIV Case Discussion on **legal and public health issues** on Wednesday 13 June. David is an immigration lawyer and former principal solicitor of the HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (HALC). Sally is a policy analyst and former consultant to the United Nations University and International Labour Office in Tokyo.

The evening will highlight some of the issues currently in the media of particular relevance to doctors specialising in HIV. You can register for the evening online at <http://www.ashm.org.au/courses/> or simply send an email to [hiba.jebeile@ashm.org.au](mailto:hiba.jebeile@ashm.org.au)

## GP study groups and HIV case discussions - first Wednesday of the month

13 June \*

**HIV Case Discussion**

*Legal and Public Health Issues with Sally Cameron and David Puls*

\* second Wednesday of this month only

5 September

**HIV GP Study Group**

*Oral Health with Wayne Sherson*

3 October

**HIV Case Discussion**

*New Therapies with David Cooper*

7 November

**HIV GP Study Group**

*Included with this Information Sheet:*

**Supporting Adherence to HAART** – letter and resource  
**Right Here Right Now** – ACON campaign pamphlet  
**STIGMA** – 10 x bookmarks, letter and survey

**PCLO vacancy** – ASHM job description  
**HIV Case Discussion** – ASHM flyer