



HIV s100 Prescribers' Information Sheet

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Prescriber renewals for 2008

Please take a few minutes to complete and return your renewal documents. If you need some advice, contact Adrian.ogier@ashm.org.au or call him on (02) 8204 0723. Here are a few suggestions for accumulating points ...

Mentoring / case conferencing – As well as claiming the time you have spent with your mentor this year, remember to claim any face-to-face, phone or email time you have spent consulting with other colleagues over particular cases. All this time is cumulative and **every 60 minutes earns 1 CME point for both parties**. You may submit an occurrence of mentorship online via the ASHM website at <http://www.ashm.org.au/mentoring-submission/>

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 or register your interest online at <http://www.ashm.org.au/mentorship/>

Clinical placements – 2 CME points. Many prescribers in GP settings, particularly those from regional areas, find that a clinical placement with a specialist is an efficient way to update. ASHM can arrange a suitable placement and organise your travel and accommodation, plus cover the cost of a locum for rural, regional and remote prescribers. To register your interest email us at primarycare@ashm.org.au or via <http://www.ashm.org.au/clinical-placements/>

ID Physician and Sexual Health Nurse join ASHM

Two new clinical members of staff have joined ASHM to work with the Education & Training and the Resources & Information Divisions.

Claudia Whyte is an Infectious Diseases Physician from Sydney who has worked in recent years at Westmead and Royal North Shore Hospitals and joins ASHM as a Clinical Advisor.

Sally Spruce is a Clinical Nurse Consultant working at Coffs Harbour Sexual Health Service, which also provides services to patients with Hepatitis C, who has joined ASHM as a Primary Care Liaison Officer.

Both Claudia and Sally are available to provide advice on clinical and service provision issues to Community Prescribers and other healthcare workers in the multi-disciplinary team. They are contactable via ASHM reception on (02) 8204 0700 or by email at primarycare@ashm.org.au.

Atazanavir PBS listing changed

From 1 November the PBS listing for Atazanavir (Reyataz) changed to take account of the new 300mg capsule formulation. There was also a change in the listing name from 'atazanavir sulfate' to 'atazanavir'. The new laminated declaration form is enclosed. The new 300 mg capsules give treatment-experienced patients the option to take either one 300 mg capsule (or two 150 mg capsules) once daily plus ritonavir 100 mg once daily, with food. The recommended dose for treatment-naïve patients remains unchanged and is two 200mg capsules once daily with food. So, 150mg, 200mg and 300mg capsules are all available via PBS.

The criteria for access to PBS funded therapy with Atazanavir, in combination with two or more other antiretroviral drugs, in HIV infection for patients are: a) CD4 cell counts of less than 500 per cubic millimetre; or b) Viral load of greater than 10,000 copies per cubic mL.

New MBS Dental Items

To be eligible for dental services under Medicare, a patient must have a chronic medical condition and complex care needs and their oral health must be impacting on, or likely to impact on, their general health. In practice, this means that patients will be managed by their GP under a *GP Management Plan* and *Team Care Arrangement*. For residents of aged care facilities, it involves the GP contributing to a multidisciplinary care plan prepared for the resident by the facility. Links to fact sheets for patients, information for GPs, information for dentists and GP referral forms are available at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/Dental+Care+Services>

AFAO has put together a paper detailing how clients with HIV or other chronic and complex health needs can be referred by their GP for free dental care through the Medicare EPC (Enhanced Primary Care) program. The paper is included for your information.

Special Access update

Maraviroc - the new CCR5 inhibitor - is currently only available through a **clinical trial** via a small number of sites in Sydney. Further information should be obtained from Pfizer on 02 9850 3333.

To be eligible for the SAS for Raltegravir (MK-0518) patients must be over 18 and unable to construct a viable alternative combination using currently licensed antiretroviral therapies due to virological failure, toxicity, or intolerance. They must have a CD4 count of <200. Places in this SAS program are initially limited; prescribers are requested to be aware of this, and ensure that only those patients in most need, as per the full inclusion criteria, are registered.

For the full eligibility criteria or to register patients, please contact: Dr. Deepak Gaur at Merck Sharp & Dohme (Australia) Pty Ltd on (02) 9795 9087 or 0414 795 686

To be eligible for the SAS for etravirine (TMC125) patients must be over 18 and unable to construct a viable alternative combination using currently licensed antiretroviral therapies due to virological failure, toxicity or intolerance. In addition, patients must have previous experience of drugs from three classes of the currently available oral antiretroviral therapies. Patients with primary NNRTI resistance can be included if they are experienced with at least two other classes of ARVs (PIs, NRTIs, NtRTIs), and meet all other indications.

For the full eligibility criteria or to register patients, please contact: Danae Brown at Tibotec, a division of Janssen-Cilag Australia on (02) 8875 3338 or 0406 754 581

Medicare funding for HLAB5701 testing

From 1 November 2007, Medicare funding is available for a genetic test that will give HIV s100 prescribers the capacity to predict predisposition to a specific treatment side effect. The test, otherwise known as **Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA)-B*5701** (allele), is the first pharmacogenetic test to gain a Medicare listing. The Medicare listing means that doctors can now order the test to exclude high risk HLA-B*5701 positive patients from a particular HIV drug therapy. Medicare will provide reimbursement for HLA-B*5701 testing performed using any one of the following techniques: flow cytometry, cytotoxicity or molecular assay.

Send HLA B5701 samples to your normal referring laboratories. If a private laboratory does not offer HLAB5701 test they will forward the test to a lab with HLA testing capabilities. The laboratories currently undertaking HLA testing are:

In NSW: Westmead Hospital St Vincent's Hospital Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
In VIC: Victorian Transplantation and Immunogenetics Service (VTIS)

Perinatal Guidelines

The *Public Health Service Task Force Recommendations for Use of Antiretroviral Drugs in Pregnant HIV-1-Infected Women for Maternal Health and Interventions to Reduce Perinatal HIV-1 Transmission in the United States* have undergone a complete revision and reorganisation to reflect important new information, and to make them more user-friendly. The guidelines have been restructured into principles for medical management of the woman and her infant during the antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum period, including panel recommendations for each section.

The updated guidelines are available in the "Guidelines" section of the *AIDSinfo* website under "Perinatal Guidelines". You can download the guidelines or request to receive them by e-mail or regular mail on the *AIDSinfo* website.

Women's day at the Positive Living Centre

On the third Monday of each month, the *PLC* at 703 Bourke St in Surry Hills will be open from 10.00am exclusively for positive women. This is a great opportunity for women to gather for social peer support on a regular basis. For further information: Vicky Coumbe, *Women's and Families Project Coordinator, Positive Services and Health Promotion, ACON*. Telephone: (02) 9699 8756

Included with this Information Sheet:

Atazanavir – declaration form
Prezista (darunavir) – product information
Dental treatment – AFAO briefing paper
STIGMA Update – October newsletter

Talkabout – Aug-Sept issue
HIV+ Gay Sex – patient booklet
Journal Options for HIV – Volume 3 Issue 2
Positive Heterosexuals – fact sheet

Plus ... your HIV s100 Prescribing renewal forms for 2008