PENTASA® – Information for Pharmacists

What is Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)?

- **Ulcerative colitis (UC) and Crohn’s disease (CD)** are the predominant IBD conditions
  - Chronic and lifelong diseases characterised by unpredictable relapsing and remitting course
  - Causes inflammation in the colon, rectum and gastrointestinal tract.¹
  - Diagnosis of IBD commonly occurs in adolescence and young adulthood, with the cause remaining unidentified.¹
- The range of symptoms include: rectal bleeding, abdominal pain, weight loss, fever, diarrhoea, and fatigue.¹

Most people require medication to reduce the inflammation, promote healing and keep the disease in remission.

PENTASA®
PENTASA® is indicated for the treatment of mild to moderate UC and CD, and maintenance of remission. PENTASA® belongs to a class of drugs known as 5-aminosalicylates (5-ASA).²,³

Formulations available
- Oral: Tablets (1g and 500mg tablets) and sachets (4g, 2g and 1g sachets)
- Rectal: 1g suppository, 1g/100mL enema. The formulation prescribed depends on the disease location and extent of disease in the colon.

Dosing
- During active disease when symptoms are present: Most PENTASA® patients are prescribed 4g of oral therapy +/- rectal therapy daily.
- During maintenance of remission when no symptoms are present: Most PENTASA® patients are prescribed 2g of oral therapy daily.

Why is adherence to IBD treatment important?

_Persistence for 5-ASA initiation is poor at 28.5% at 12 months, and 16.2% at 24 months.⁴_

“Better persistence to 5-ASA will improve patient outcomes by preventing flares and possibly colorectal cancer.”⁴

- Australia has one of the highest rates of prevalence and incidence of IBD in the world (affects approximately 1 in 250 people aged 5 – 49) and each year more and more young people are being diagnosed.¹
- Almost 75,000 Australians are burdened with a constant and often hidden struggle that affects a sufferer’s personal, social and work life.¹
- National hospital costs for IBD are in the order of $100 million per annum.¹
- Productivity losses attributable to IBD in 2012 are estimated at over $380 million.¹
- An additional $2.7 billion of financial and economic costs have been associated with the management of IBD.¹
- Poorly controlled IBD affects development, psychological wellbeing, education and employment productivity, family life and relationships.¹
- Pharmacists are well positioned to educate patients and monitor adherence to their IBD treatment.

References:
1. Improving Inflammatory Bowel Disease care across Australia. Crohn's & Colitis Australia 2013 PwC report
2. PENTASA® Tablets and Sachets Product Information
3. PENTASA® Enemas and Suppositories Product Information