

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Dovonex cream

A 240g pack size of Dovonex (calcipotriol) cream has been launched (Leo Pharmaceuticals); net price, £54.64.

SPC CHANGES

Aprovel tablets

The licensed indications for Aprovel (irbesartan) tablets have been extended (Bristol-Myers Squibb, Sanofi-Synthelabo). Aprovel is now additionally indicated for the treatment of renal disease in patients with hypertension and type 2 diabetes mellitus as part of an anti-hypertensive drug regimen.

Glivec capsules

The licensed indications for Glivec (imatinib) capsules have been extended (Novartis Pharmaceuticals). Glivec is now additionally indicated for the treatment of adult patients with Kit (CD 117) positive unresectable and/or metastatic malignant gastrointestinal stromal tumours.

Prevenar vaccine

The summary of product characteristics for Prevenar pneumococcal polysaccharide conjugated vaccine has been updated (Wyeth Pharmaceuticals). The interactions section makes reference to data suggesting that concomitant administration of Prevenar and cross reactive material (CRM) conjugate meningococcal C vaccines would not result in any immunologic interference when given as a three dose primary vaccination in the first year of life. See SPC.

LABELS UPDATE

Our update of additions to the British National Formulary list of cautionary and advisory labels for dispensed medicines follows the same format as the BNF list. It includes products introduced or amended since publication of BNF number 43 (March 2002).

- Artemether with Lumefantrine, 21
- Concerta XL, 25
- Idrolax, 13
- Ketek, 9
- Methylphenidate m/r, 25
- Monomax XL, 25
- Omacor, 21
- Omega-3-acid ethyl esters, 21
- Riamet, 21
- Telithromycin, 9
- Tenofovir, 21
- Viread, 21

COUNTER MEDICINES

Stugeron 15 tablets

The packaging for Stugeron 15 (cinnarizine) tablets has been redesigned as shown below (Johnson & Johnson MSD).



PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

Abbott products

ProSure liquid tube feed, in a 500ml ready-to-hang container, has been launched (Abbott Laboratories); net price, 15 £84.38. It is available in vanilla flavour and is approved by the Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances (ACBS). Enrich Plus liquid tube feed, vanilla flavour, in a 500ml ready-to-hang container, has also been launched; net price, 15 £61.50. It is ACBS approved.

FUTURE EVENTS

Managing the risk

The Primary and Community Care Pharmacy Network 2002 conference on "Managing the risk", Moat House Hotel, Llanedeyrn, Cardiff, 7-8 October. Cost £200. One-day options are available. Details from Diane Heath, Lakeside Offices, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff CF14 4XW (tel 029 2074 4570, e-mail diane.heath@cardiffandvale.wales.nhs.uk).

APPOINTMENTS

Cardiac research professor

Gavin Brooks, MRPharmS, has been appointed professor of cardiovascular research at the University of Reading and will take up his post from 1 October. He joined the University of Reading in 1999. His research focuses on intracellular mechanisms that control cardiovascular cell growth in health and disease. He is also chairman of the International Pharmaceutical Federation's special interest group on pharmaceutical biotechnology.

Phoenix, Preston Brook

Phil Stubbs has been appointed general manager of the central distribution centre for Phoenix Medical Supplies at Preston Brook, North Cheshire. Mr Stubbs was the founder and operations manager of

Money raised for Bristol Cancer Help Centre



Stuart Moul, MRPharmS, has raised £1,800 for Bristol Cancer Help Centre from sponsorship by completing the London Marathon this year. The photograph shows Mr Moul presenting a cheque to Pat Turton, Bristol Cancer Help Centre.

Branded Goods Wholesale, a company acquired by Phoenix when it bought Philip Harris Medical. He has been managing the Preston Brook depot on a temporary basis for the past four months.

OTC promotions consultant

Peter Troughton, MRPharmS, has been appointed OTC promotions consultant at Nucare. He was formerly business development manager at National Co-operative Chemists and has also worked at the London Co-op.

ABOUT PEOPLE

Medication delivery award

Uttam Chouchan, MRPharmS, principal pharmacist, clinical services, Glan Clwyd Hospital, Bodelwyddan, Rhyl, has been awarded the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists Baxter medication delivery award 2002. He will present a poster of his work, "Epidural infusion of fentanyl and bupivacaine — closing the

DRUG TARIFF UPDATES

NCSO endorsements

The Department of Health and the National Assembly for Wales have agreed to allow "No cheaper stock obtainable" endorsements for the following item for July prescriptions: Citalopram 20mg and 40mg tablets.

RESOURCES

IBS report

A report, "Target Crohn's and colitis", has been published by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry. Copies are available, free of charge, from the ABPI Publications Department, 12 Whitehall, London SW1A 2DY (tel 020 7930 3477).

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