

## PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

### CP products

CP Pharmaceuticals has launched the following products:

- Cetrizine 10mg tablets, pack size 30; net price, £8.29
- Codeine phosphate 60mg tablets, pack size 30 £2.78
- Co-fluampicil capsules (flucloxacillin sodium 250mg, ampicillin trihydrate 250mg); net price, 28 £8.73, 100 £30.75

### Calcichew Forte tablets

The pack size of Calcichew Forte 1g tablets has been changed from 100 to 60 tablets (Shire Pharmaceuticals); net price, 60 £13.16.

## SPC CHANGES

### Buspar tablets

The summary of product characteristics for Buspar (buspirone hydrochloride) tablets has been updated (Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals). Under the interactions section, diltiazem and verapamil have been added to the examples of agents that inhibit the isoenzyme CYP3A4. The following statement has been added: "Co-administration of rifampicin, a potent inducer of CYP3A4, with Buspar has been shown to considerably decrease the plasma concentration and pharmacodynamic effects of buspirone." See SPC.

### Tri-Adcortyl preparations

The summaries of product characteristics for Tri-Adcortyl (triamcinolone acetonide, neomycin sulphate, gramicidin, nystatin) cream and ointment and Tri-Adcortyl Otic ointment have been amended (Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals). Tri-Adcortyl should be applied to the affected area two (or occasionally three) times daily instead of two to four times daily as previously stated. The products are contraindicated in children under one year of age. The special warnings and precautions for use section states that contact with eyes and mucous membranes should be avoided. Information on the types of systemic effects associated with all steroid therapy has been added to the undesirable effects section. The indications section for Tri-Adcortyl cream and ointment has been summarised and states: "In the treatment of corticosteroid sensitive dermatoses complicated by infections due to micro-organisms sensitive to the anti-infectives." See SPC.

### Starlix tablets

The summary of product characteristics for Starlix (nateglinide) tablets

has been amended (Novartis Pharmaceuticals). The shelf-life has been extended from two to three years. See SPC.

### Arcoxia indications

The licensed indications for Arcoxia (etoricoxib) tablets have been revised (Merck Sharp & Dohme). The therapeutic indications section now states: "Arcoxia tablets are indicated for the symptomatic relief of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and the pain and signs of inflammation associated with acute gouty arthritis." Arcoxia tablets are no longer licensed for the relief of chronic musculoskeletal pain, including chronic low back pain; relief of acute pain associated with dental surgery; treatment of primary dysmenorrhoea. See SPC.

## DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

### Vitravene injection

Vitravene (fomivirsin sodium) injection has been discontinued (Novartis Pharmaceuticals). Information about named patient supply can be obtained from Novartis's medical information department (tel 01276 698370).

## SUPPLY PROBLEMS

### Anturan tablets

Novartis Pharmaceuticals has announced that it has found a new source of active ingredient for Anturan (sulfapyrazone) 100mg and 200mg tablets, pack size 84, and is working to return these products to stock as quickly as the registration process permits. No date has been confirmed. Further clarification can be obtained by contacting the company's medical information department (tel 01276 698370).

### Pitressin injection

Goldshield Pharmaceuticals is experiencing supply problems with Pitressin (synthetic vasopressin) 20iu/ml injection and no emergency stock is available. This is expected to be a temporary problem.

## COUNTER MEDICINES

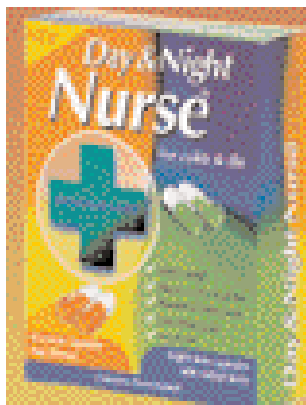
### GlaxoSmithKline products

The following products are being launched (GlaxoSmithKline):

- Day and Night Nurse capsules, packs containing 18 day-time capsules (paracetamol 500mg, pseudoephedrine hydrochloride 30mg, pholcodeine 5mg) and 6 night-time capsules (paracetamol 500mg, promethazine hydrochloride 10mg, dextromethor-

phan 7.5mg); retail price, £4.49. Legal category: pharmacy medicine

- Beechams All-in-One tablets (paracetamol 250mg, guaifenesin 100mg, phenylephrine hydrochloride 5mg); retail price, 16 £3.39. Legal category: general sale list
- Beechams Decongestant Plus with Paracetamol capsules (paracetamol 300mg, caffeine 25mg, phenylephrine hydrochloride 5mg); retail price, 16 £2.69. Legal category: general sale list



## FUTURE EVENTS

### Managing knowledge

Institute of Pharmacy Management International conference on "The successful pharmacist: managing knowledge and managing yourself", Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cambridge, 12-13 October. Cost £235 for members, £295 for non-members. Details from Hazel Maxted, IPMI Conference Administrator, 52 Park Avenue East, Ewell, Surrey KT17 2NY.

### Palliative care

University Hospitals of Leicester study day on "Palliative care",

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Centre, Leicester, 6 November. Cost £20. Details from the University Hospitals palliative care team on 0116 256 3540.

### New prescribers

*Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin* afternoon seminar on "The new prescribers and suppliers of medicines", King's Fund, 11-13 Cavendish Square, London W1, 5 December, 1pm. Cost £90. Details from Jacqueline McLean on 020 7770 7571.

## EXAMINATION RESULTS

*The following candidates have been successful in this summer's final pharmacy degree examinations*

### University of Brighton MPharm Honours Class I: D. E. Buckley; M. A.

Burke; S. Kennedy; W. J. O'Regan; N. O'Shea; M. M. Philbin; E. J. Whelan. *Honours Class II,*

*Division 1: C. Ansell; A. T. Anthony; S. L. Armitage; C. M. Bacon; S. M. Brosnan; B. Cavey; M. T. Clerkin; K. Crotty; M. A. Cullen; P. N. Dalton; S. V. Eynon; A. Fakey; C. A. M. Fitzgerald; J. K. Gbadamosi; M. Gianneloudi; B. Gormer; G. L. Healey; S. A. Lewis; U. McPartlan; C. Murphy; M. Naroe; L. M. Noble; N. Nwachukwu; A. C. O'Brien; O. O'Donnell; S. L. Osbourne; A. Patel; N. Ryan; N. K. Sood; M. M. Sukkar; M. B. Surti; F. P. Thoday; M. Thornton; B. M. Wixted; K. H. Woodrow; A. C. Worwood; W. A. Younis. *Honours Class II, Division 2: C. Aljawhiri; S. D. Batse; S. S. Buckley; T. S. Burton; L. B. Byrne; F. Dharani;**

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L. Dowdell; S. L. Dunne; S. G. Forsythe; B. A. Gallagher; S. M. Gardiner; C. A. Gilchreest; R. Glantz; K. M. Harries; R. S. J. Harvey; A. Hodges; C. S. Jermy; I. Kilroy; S. M. Knightly; K. Kostis; E. M. Larsson; J. B. Lightfoot; M. F. G. Lui; B. J. Mimmagh; E. Minadakis; H. Mussa; J. A. O'Connell; P. Pala; A. Parshad; J. H. Patel; A. J. Penna; S. M. Pires; J. L. Roberts; S. M. Shemisa; T. A. Sobo; N. Somani; S. L. Taylor; J. L. Topps; S. Tsitsirigou; M. Ukra; R. Ullah. *Honours Class III*: S. S. Aulak; A. Din; S. Lavan; B. P. Patel; L. O. A. Salau. *Unclassified*: I. Amin; E. O'Connell.

ABOUT PEOPLE

**IPMI Council**  
 Larry Hurst, FRPharmS, has been elected chairman of the Institute of Pharmacy Management International. Mr Hurst is a former industrial pharmacist who is now a consultant to pharmacy and health care organisations. He succeeds Mike Rudin, MRPharmS, who is now executive director of the British Association of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers. Mel Smith, MRPharmS, professional relations

manager at Reckitt Benckiser, Steve Howard, MRPharmS, training and development specialist at Lloyd-spharmacy, and Dr Steven Kayne, FRPharmS, a community pharmacist and writer, have been elected to the IPMI's council for the first time. They will serve until 2005.

**Tesco preregistration winner**  
 Shona Anderson was named Tesco pharmacy preregistration trainee of the year at a dinner held in London recently. Ms Anderson trained at the company's Edinburgh branch.

REUNIONS

**Victorian College, Melbourne**  
 A reunion is being held for pharmacists who graduated from the Victorian College of Pharmacy, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, and who are now working in the United Kingdom. It will be held at the private dining room of Pharmacy Restaurant and Bar, Notting Hill Gate, London, on 16 September at 7.30pm. Partners are also welcome. The reunion will be hosted by Professor Colin Chapman, dean of the college, and his wife Margaret, both of whom graduated in 1971. Details from Sarah Vincent (e-mail

sarah.vincent@vcp.monash.edu.au, fax 00 61 3 9903 9581).

**Square 1955**

A reunion for students and staff who attended the London School of Pharmacy before and including 1955 is being held on 22 September at the School of Pharmacy, Brunswick Square, London. Details from Alan Briggs on 020 8868 7652.

**Bath 1996 and 1997**

A reunion is planned for pharmacists who graduated from the Bath school of pharmacy in 1996 or 1997 in Bath on 11–12 October. Accommodation will be at the Royal York Travelodge. Those wishing to attend should contact Glen Chapman by 3 September (e-mail chapman\_glen@hotmail.com).

WANTS LIST

**Nepal expedition**

Medical Expeditions, a charitable organisation studying altitude related illness, and its trading company MEDEX, want to recruit a self-financing pharmacist to take part in an expedition to Nepal in March 2003. The pharmacist will have responsibility for acquiring and dis-

tributing pharmaceutical supplies for six or seven independent groups of up to 10 people operating in remote areas for up to six weeks. Those interested in receiving more details of the work involved can contact Tony Davies, MRPharmS, 85 Oldfield Road, Sheffield S6 6DU (tel 0114 234 0630 (e-mail tee\_dec@btopenworld.com).

CORRECTIONS

**Moss refurbishment**

Moss Pharmacy received £90,500 from the Scottish Executive to refurbish its Albert Street branch in Dundee, not £9,500 as stated (P7, 24 August, p240).

RESOURCES

**Pain in children leaflet**

A leaflet advising parents/carers about the choices available to them when choosing pain relief for children has been produced by the Aspirin Foundation. Copies can be obtained, free of charge, from the Wyeth Consumer Healthcare careline (tel 0845 111 0151).