

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Spiriva inhalation capsules

COMPOSITION: Tiotropium (as bromide monohydrate) 18µg.

PRESENTATION: Hard capsules containing powder for inhalation.

ACTION: Anticholinergic.

INDICATIONS: Maintenance treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

DOSAGE: Inhalation of one capsule daily with the HandiHaler device at the same time each day.

MAJOR CAUTIONS AND CONTRAINDICATIONS: Tiotropium is contraindicated in patients with hypersensitivity to atropine or its derivatives, ie, ipratropium or oxitropium, or the excipient lactose monohydrate. Tiotropium should not be used for the initial treatment of acute episodes of bronchospasm (ie, rescue therapy). Co-administration of tiotropium with other anticholinergics is not recommended.

SIDE EFFECTS: Very common (>10 per cent) adverse event is dry mouth; common adverse events (>1 per cent) are constipation, moniliasis, sinusitis and pharyngitis.

LEGAL CATEGORY: POM.

NET PRICE: Combopack containing 30 capsules and a HandiHaler device £37.62, Refill pack 30 capsules £36.60.

CONTACT DETAILS: Boehringer Ingelheim, Ellesfield Avenue, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 8YS. Tel customer services 01344 741101, enquiries 0845 602 3809; fax 01344 741298.

See SPC for further details.



Nizatidine capsules

Alpharma has launched nizatidine capsules; net price, 150mg 30 £8.27, 300mg 30 £16.40.

SPC CHANGES

Nexium tablets

The summary of product characteristics for Nexium (esomeprazole) tablets has been updated (AstraZeneca). The interactions section states that a few isolated cases of elevated international normalised ratio have been reported during post-marketing when esomeprazole 40mg was administered to warfarin-

treated patients. Monitoring is recommended when initiating and ending concomitant treatment with warfarin. The following rare (>0.01 per cent, <0.1 per cent) adverse event has been added: Hypersensitivity reactions, eg, angioedema and anaphylactic reaction. The overdose section states that the symptoms described in connection with a dose of 280mg were gastrointestinal symptoms and weakness.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Inhalet spacer device

The Inhalet spacer device has now been removed from packs of Pulmicort (budesonide) inhaler (AstraZeneca). Discontinuation of the device from packs of Pulmicort LS inhaler and Bricanyl (terbutaline) spacer inhaler is expected to have been completed by the end of this year. See *Pf*, 6 April, p463.

Rapamune sachets

Rapamune (sirolimus) 1ml and 2ml sachets have been discontinued with immediate effect (Wyeth Pharmaceuticals).

Betnovate rectal ointment

Betnovate rectal ointment is being discontinued (GlaxoSmithKline). Supplies are expected to be available until December.

Mexitil PL Perlongets

Mexitil PL (mexiletine hydrochloride) Perlongets are being discontinued. Stocks are expected to be exhausted during October (Boehringer Ingelheim).

SUPPLY PROBLEMS

Calcitriol capsules

Calcitriol 0.25µg and 0.5µg capsules, pack size 30, are now available again from APS/Berk.

COUNTER MEDICINES

Senokot Double Strength tablets

Senokot Double Strength 15mg tablets have been launched (Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare); retail price, 24 £3.40. Legal category: pharmacy medicine.

Nurofen for Children Singles

Nurofen for Children Singles sachets containing ibuprofen 100mg/5ml suspension, available in an orange flavour, have been launched (Crookes Healthcare); retail price, 8 sachets £2.79, 16 sachets £4.99. Legal category: general sale list.

Nurofen new packaging

The packaging of the 12-tablet pack of Nurofen (ibuprofen) 200mg tablets has been redesigned as shown below; retail price, £2.49 (Crookes Healthcare).



NiQuitin CQ mint gum

NiQuitin CQ 2mg and 4mg mint gum has been launched (GlaxoSmithKline); retail price, both strengths 12 £2.99, 24 £5.69, 96 £17.49.

PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

Lidcare eyelid hygiene system

The volume of solution in the Lidcare eyelid hygiene system has been increased from 80ml to 100ml (Novartis Pharmaceuticals).

FUTURE EVENTS

Obesity and diabetes

New Forest Primary Care Trust meeting for community pharmacists on "Obesity with a link to diabetes", Crown Hotel, Lyndhurst, 22 October, 7 for 7.30pm. Buffet. Those wishing to attend should contact Lucy Barlow on 023 8028 2250 (e-mail lucy.barlow@nfpct.nhs.uk).

Welsh students dinner

Welsh School of Pharmacy Post Students Association annual dinner dance, Angel Hotel, Cardiff, 26 October. Tickets £36.50 each. Bookings should be made with Dai John, Welsh School of Pharmacy, Cardiff University, Redwood Building, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff CF10 3XF (e-mail JohnDN@cf.ac.uk) by 15 October.

DRUG TARIFF UPDATES

NSCO endorsements

The Department of Health and the National Assembly for Wales have agreed to allow "No cheaper stock obtainable" (NSCO) endorsements for the following items for September prescriptions: Co-triamterzide 50/25 tablets, hydralazine 25mg tablets.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ditropan XL transfer

Responsibility for Ditropan XL (oxybutynin hydrochloride) prolonged-release tablets has been transferred to Janssen-Cilag Ltd. Medical information queries can be made on 0800 731 8450.

THE JOURNAL

CPD pilot deadline

Answers and reports for *The Journal's* first continuing professional development pilot need to be submitted to the College of Pharmacy Practice by 16 September. Submission can be made by e-mail to info@collpharm.org.uk. E-mails should contain the phrase: FAO: "Mrs Dot Kettell" in the subject line.

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