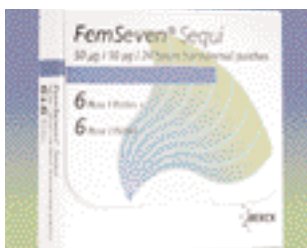


## PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

### FemSeven Sequi

Packs of FemSeven Sequi transdermal patches containing patches of estradiol hemihydrate 1.5mg per patch (releasing 50µg of estradiol per 24 hours) and patches of estradiol hemihydrate 1.5mg and levonorgestrel 1.5mg per patch (releasing 50µg of estradiol and 10µg of levonorgestrel per 24 hours) have been launched (Merck Pharmaceuticals); net price, 4 £9.98, 12 £28.44. The product is indicated for hormone replacement therapy for oestrogen deficiency symptoms in post-menopausal women who still have their uterus. Each treatment cycle consists of applying one estradiol patch once a week for the first two weeks and then one estradiol and levonorgestrel patch once a week for the following two weeks.



### Aranesp injection

A 300µg/0.6ml prefilled syringe of Aranesp (darbepoetin alfa) solution for injection has been launched (Amgen); net price, 1 £502.80.

### PLIVA products

PLIVA Pharma (formerly Dominion Pharma) has launched the following products:

- Doxazosin tablets; net price 1mg 28 £9.50, 2mg 28 £12.68, 4mg 28 £14.68
- Ceftriaxone sodium 1g powder for injection; net price, 1 £10.94

### Goldshield products

Goldshield Pharmaceuticals has launched the following products:

- Soloc (bisoprol fumarate) tablets; net price, 5mg 28 £8.15, 10mg 28 £9.15
- Trintek 5 (glyceryl trinitrate) transdermal patches (releasing 5mg/24 hours); net price, 30 £11.84
- Trintek 10 transdermal patches (releasing 10mg/24 hours); net price, 30 £13.10
- Trintek 15 transdermal patches (releasing 15mg/24 hours); net price, 30 £14.42

### Reminyl oral solution

Reminyl (galantamine) 4mg/ml oral solution, pack size 100ml, has been launched (Shire Pharmaceuticals); net price, £120.

### Erythromycin oral solution

Erythromycin oral solution 250mg/5ml and 500mg/5ml, pack size 100, are now available with a child resistant cap (Alpharma).

## SPC CHANGES

### Aranesp new indication

The licensed indications for Aranesp (darbepoetin alfa) solution for injection have been extended. Aranesp is now also indicated for the treatment of anaemia in adult cancer patients with solid tumours (non-haematological malignancies) receiving chemotherapy).

### Diovan capsules

The summary of product characteristics for Diovan (valsartan) capsules has been updated (Novartis Pharmaceuticals). The following undesirable effects, which have been reported very rarely since the product was licensed, have been added: thrombocytopenia, myalgia and transient taste disturbance. See SPC.

## COUNTER MEDICINES

### Remegel chewy squares

Remegel (calcium carbonate) chewy indigestion squares have been launched in a summer fruit flavour (SSL International); retail price, 8 95p, 24 £2.35. Legal category: general sale list.



### Rennie Soft Chews

Rennie Soft Chews (calcium carbonate) have been launched (Roche Consumer Health); retail price, 8 £1.15, 3 x 8 £2.69. The product is available in a mint flavour. Legal category: general sale list.



## PRODUCT ALERT

### Cytarabine injection alert

Before they are used, vials from the following batches of Cytarabine 100mg/ml solution for injection must be warmed to 55°C for a maximum of 30 minutes, with adequate shaking, and then allowed to cool to room temperature (Pharmacia):

Batch number	Expiry date	Pack size
U138G	May 2003	10ml
U191E	May 2003	20ml

The advice has been issued as a precautionary measure following reports of crystalline matter (cytarabine) present in vials. Pharmacia has submitted licence variations to include the above requirement for all future batches and also to amend the storage conditions to: Store at 15°C to 25°C. Further information can be obtained from medical information, Pharmacia (tel 01908 661101).

### Lyclear cream rinse

The packaging for Lyclear (permethrin) cream rinse has been redesigned as shown below (Pfizer Consumer Healthcare).



### Acticin gel and cream

Acticin (tretinoin) 0.025 per cent gel and cream will be discontinued as of 31 October (Strakan).

## SUPPLY PROBLEMS

### Guarem granules

Packs of 50 sachets of Guarem (gum gum) 5g granules are out stock (Shire Pharmaceuticals). No further stock of this pack size is expected. The 100-sachet pack size remains available. Further information can be obtained from the company's medical information department (tel 01256 894000).

## DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

### AstraZeneca products

The following products will be discontinued with effect from 31 October (AstraZeneca):

- Dirythmin SA (disopyramide) 150mg Durules
- Theo-Dur (theophylline) 200mg and 300mg tablets

Further information can be obtained from the company's medical information department (tel 0800 783 0033).

## WANTS LIST

### Loch Ness marathon

Jude Madeleine, clinical pharmacist at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, is running in the first Loch Ness marathon on 29 September in aid of the Scottish Community Foundation and wants to hear from anyone able to sponsor him. He can be contacted at Raigmore Hospital,

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Inverness IV2 3UJ (tel 01463 705584, e-mail jude.madeleine@raigmore.scot.nhs.uk).

## FUTURE EVENTS

**Clinical governance**  
CAMRx Pharmacy Development Group roadshow on "Clinical governance — how will it impact your pharmacy?", The Flamingo, Loughborough Road, Leicester, 16 October, 7pm. Buffet. CAMRx members wishing to attend should contact Pauline Garner on 01530 510520.

## ABOUT PEOPLE

**United Co-op**  
John Nuttall, MRPharmS, has been promoted to general manager retail pharmacy at United Co-op. Mr Nuttall joined the company in 1987 and was formerly superintendent pharmacist.

**Avicenna**  
David Gration, FRPharmS, has been appointed a non-executive director at Avicenna Plc. Mr Gration has held senior marketing positions at Boots and Wyeth and is currently chairman of SRS Technol-

ogy, deputy chairman of Protherics and is a non-executive at Regan Pharmaceuticals.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Terry Norris**  
Diane Norris, widow of Terry Norris, who died on 15 August (*PJ*, 24 August, p238), has issued the following statement: "Diane Norris wishes to join with her sons Ben and Adam in expressing sincere thanks to everyone who sent messages of sympathy, flowers and donations to Cancer Research UK in memory of her husband Terry. The support of so many at this difficult time has been a wonderful source of strength and has made us aware of the positive effect Terry had on all those he met. Thank you everyone for the friendship you showed to him. From your cards and letters we know Terry's presence will be greatly missed."

**NPPG award winners**  
The Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group has awarded its 2002 Mandeville Medicines research award of £3,000 to a team from the Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust based at Alder Hey Children's

Hospital. The team, Tony Nunn, director of pharmacy; Lewis Rosenbloom, consultant paediatric neurologist; Steven Ryan, consultant paediatrician; and Julie Turner, research assistant, will evaluate the pharmaceutical care and research needs of children with multiple handicaps. The NPPG research prize of £1,500 has been given to Christopher Cutts, lecturer at the school of pharmacy, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, for his paper "Paediatric inborn errors of metabolism: positioning the pharmacist's role from supply to pharmaceutical care".

## PSNC award winners

The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee has awarded its first community pharmacy development awards to local pharmaceutical committees. North and East Devon LPC and South and West Devon LPC have been jointly given two awards of £1,000 each for a project for pharmacy involvement in the single assessment process of vulnerable older people. East Sussex LPC receives £1,000 for a project on error reporting, South Essex LPC will use its award to develop an existing minor ailments scheme and Southern Derbyshire LPC will

develop medicines support services. Each of the LPCs will be making a presentation on its work at the LPCs' conference in London in March 2003.

## REUNIONS

**Heriot-Watt 1964 68**  
A 35-year reunion for pharmacists who attended the Heriot-Watt school of pharmacy, Edinburgh, from 1964-68 will be held on 21 June 2003. Invitations will be issued in January 2003.

## CORRECTIONS

**Statutory Committee**  
A recent Statutory Committee report (*PJ*, 7 September, p343) should have made clear that Shiraz R. J. Panjwani's name was removed from the register only after an appeal hearing in the High Court. The judges ruled that the committee's decision was unjustified in relation to the complaint of failure to account for supplies of Viagra tablets, but they upheld the striking-off decision on the other grounds set out in the notice of inquiry (*PJ*, 8 June, p793).

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