

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Clozaril tablets

Clozaril (clozapine) 25mg and 100mg tablets are now also available in bottles of 100 tablets as well as the existing blister packs (Novartis Pharmaceuticals); net price, 100 25mg £48.88, 100mg £195.55.

Solian tablets

Solian (amisulpride) 100mg tablets have been added to the Solian range (Sanofi-Synthelabo); net price, 60 £39.48.

Engerix B vaccine

Engerix B (hepatitis B recombinant vaccine adsorbed) 10µg/0.5ml is now available in pre-filled syringes as well as the existing vials (Glaxo-SmithKline Vaccines); net price, 1 syringe £10.40.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Prozac hospital pack

The 30-capsule hospital pack of Prozac (fluoxetine) 20mg will be discontinued from 1 November. All other packs remain available (Eli Lilly).

Tofranil syrup

Tofranil (imipramine hydrochloride) 25mg/5ml syrup has been discontinued due to problems with procuring the raw materials (Novartis Pharmaceuticals).

Betahistine

The 120-tablet pack of betahistine dihydrochloride 8mg has been discontinued. The 84-tablet pack remains available (Alpharma).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nu-Seals Aspirin transfer

Responsibility for Nu-Seals Aspirin 75mg and 300mg enteric coated tablets has been transferred to Alliance Pharmaceuticals. Orders should be placed with Alliance (tel 01249 466974, e-mail salesoffice@alliancepharma.co.uk). Eli Lilly & Co will continue to provide medical information for Nu-Seals Aspirin until further notice.

Liverpool awards

The following pharmacists have been awarded postgraduate certificates or diplomas in clinical pharmacy by Liverpool John Moores University (* with distinction): *certificate* Carolyn Boardall*, Brenda Haymer, Julie Hollingsworth, Roshni Patel; *diploma* Abiola Allinson, Rabana Azim, Joanne Clubbe, Katherine Evans*, Hannah George*, Elizabeth Hunt, Andrea

Leatherbarrow, Catherine Lee*, Elaine Myers, Nela Roncevic-Ashton, Anne Waddington, Benjamin Walmsley, Abbie Young.

ABOUT PEOPLE

FIP community pharmacy

Christine Glover, FRPharmS, has been appointed to the steering group of the International Pharmaceutical Federation's community pharmacy section. Mrs Glover is Immediate Past-President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

Solicitor appointment

Damian Cooper, MRPharmS, was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court on 16 September. He now works for the trade and regulatory department of Addleshaw Booth & Co in its Manchester office.

National Joint Registry

Bill Darling, FRPharmS, has been appointed chairman of the steering committee for the newly established National Joint Registry for Hip and Knee Replacements. The registry will start collecting data in April 2003. Mr Darling is a Past-President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

Queen's University

Professor James McElnay, MRPharmS, has been appointed dean of the faculty of science and agriculture at the Queen's University of Belfast. Professor Sean Gorman has been appointed acting head of the school of pharmacy.

PCT chief pharmacist

Michael Beaman, FRPharmS, has been appointed chief pharmacist at North Hertfordshire and Stevenage Primary Care Trust. Mr Beaman was formerly a pharmaceutical officer in Barnet and more recently Enfield and Haringey. He will take up his new post on 1 November.

AWARDS

Information technology

The Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists and First DataBank Europe have launched a new information technology award. The award of £2,500 is designed to recognise IT initiatives and best practice in the use of IT in pharmacy. In particular, initiatives are sought where IT has made a difference to the provision of pharmaceutical services or has directly benefited patients or staff. The award is open to hospital pharmacy departments and individuals. Details are available from Raj

Gokani of the guild's IT interest group on 01865 228483 or the GHP website (www.ghp.org.uk). The closing date for entries is 24 January 2003.

Engaging the patient

Phoenix Healthcare Distribution and Pharmacia have launched a new award for independent community pharmacies. The Engaging the Patient award aims to recognise initiatives that have reshaped care around patients and developed roles for pharmacists outside of the dispensary. There will be three regional awards followed by a national final with a prize of £1,500. The award is open to pharmacists working in independent pharmacies or chains of less than 25 stores in Great Britain. Details from Judith Lovell, Phoenix Healthcare Distribution, Rivington Road, Whitehouse Industrial Estate, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 3DJ (tel 01928 750660). The closing date for entries is 31 January 2003.

FUTURE EVENTS

Clinical governance

The Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education is holding three residential training programmes for community pharmacy clinical governance facilitators. Each consists of a two-day residential course and a one-day follow-up session. The first course will be held in Leeds, starting on 17 October. Subsequent courses will start on 4 November and 22 January 2003. A charge will be made for accommodation. Details from Chloe Knight on 0161 778 4015.

Student sports

The British Pharmaceutical Students Association's sports and social

weekend is being held at the Greenbank leisure centre, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, 26-27 October. Details from Emma Smith on 07876 408462.

Cancer care

Scottish Cancer Care Pharmacy Group meeting, Dunblane Hydro Hotel, 9 November. Topics include lung cancer, biological modifiers and the role of clinical technicians. Cost £10. Details from Sally McKendrick on 0141 211 4252.

Mental health

Scottish Pharmacists in Mental Health meeting on "Keep taking the tablets", Royal Scottish National Hospital, Larbert, 12 November. Topics to be covered include information for patients, discharge planning and the role of community pharmacists, and the use of patients' own medicines. Cost £5. Details from Val Kippen on 0131 537 6372 (e-mail vkippen@lhb.scot.nhs.uk). Closing date for bookings is 1 November.

CORRECTIONS

Needle and syringe exchange
Dr Janie Sheridan's 1995 survey of pharmacies' involvement with drug misusers, reported in *The Journal* on 5 October as part of the practice research lecture at the British Pharmaceutical Conference (p493), found that 34 per cent of respondents were selling injecting equipment, not 24 per cent as stated.

MEP guide

In last week's amendments to the 'Medicines, Ethics and Practice' guide (p509), the legal category for Senokot Double Strength tablets should have been P.

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