

## PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

### FemSeven Conti

FemSeven Conti (estradiol hemihydrate 1.5mg with levonorgestrel 0.525mg) transdermal patches, releasing 50µg of estradiol and 7µg of levonorgestrel per 24 hours, are being launched (Merck Pharmaceuticals); net price, 4 £12.90, 12 £36.77. The product is indicated for hormone replacement therapy for oestrogen deficiency symptoms in postmenopausal women more than one year after menopause.



### BCG vaccine SSI

BCG vaccine SSI (*Mycobacterium bovis* bacillus Calmette-Guérin) powder for suspension for injection has been launched (Statens Serum Institut). The vaccine is being distributed by Farillon. For medical information enquiries contact SSI (tel 00 45 3268 3436, fax 00 45 3268 3973, e-mail AMP@ssi.dk).

### Cefotaxime and ceftriazone

The following products will be available in packs of 25 vials as of 1 December (Genus Pharmaceuticals):

- Cefotaxime 1g vials; net price, 25 £112.50
- Ceftriazone 1g, net price, 25 £248.75

### Sustiva tablets

Sustiva (efavirenz) 600mg tablets have been launched (Bristol-Myers Squibb); net price, 30 £224.09.

### Codipar Caplets

Codipar (codeine phosphate 15mg and paracetamol 500mg) Caplets have been launched (Goldshield Pharmaceuticals); net price, 100 £7.15.

### Loratadine tablets

Loratadine 10mg tablets have been launched (Niche Generics); net price, 30 £6.43.

## SPC CHANGES

### Symmetrel capsules

The summary of product characteristics for Symmetrel (amantadine)

capsules has been updated. The special warnings and precautions for use section now states that a similar reaction to neuroleptic malignant syndrome or neuroleptic-induced catatonia, following abrupt withdrawal of amantadine in patients taking neuroleptic agents, has also been reported rarely following withdrawal of amantadine and other anti-parkinson agents in patients who were not taking concurrent psychoactive medication. Neuroleptic malignant-like syndrome has been added to the undesirable effects section. See SPC.

## DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

### Shire products

The following products are being discontinued (Shire Pharmaceuticals):

- Calcidrink (calcium carbonate) sachets, pack size 30
- Guarem (guar gum) 5g sachets, pack sizes 50 and 100
- Isordil (isosorbide dinitrate) 10mg and 30mg tablets, pack size 112

### Semprex capsules

Semprex (acrivastine) 8mg capsules are being discontinued (Glaxo-SmithKline). Supplies are expected to remain available until April next year.

### Disprin tablets

The 8-tablet pack size of Disprin (aspirin) 300mg tablets has been discontinued with immediate effect (Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare).

### Optimine syrup

Optimine (azatadine maleate) 500µg/5ml syrup has been discontinued (Schering-Plough).

## SUPPLY PROBLEMS

### Co-amilofruse tablets

Co-amilofruse (amiloride hydrochloride and furosemide) 2.5/20 and 5/40 tablets, pack size 28, are temporarily out of stock (Alpharma). This is because of changes in the manufacturing process.

## COUNTER MEDICINES

### Berylin Day & Night tablets

The formulation of the day tablets in packs of Berylin Day and Night has been changed (Pfizer and Warner Lambert Healthcare). Phenylpropranolamine hydrochloride 25mg has been replaced with pseudoephedrine hydrochloride 25mg. The tablets still contain paracetamol 500mg.

## PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

### NicoBloc drops

NicoBloc drops, a smoking cessation aid, has been launched (Rosen Holdings); net price, 1 bottle £29.45. The drops should be applied to the filter of each cigarette immediately before smoking — one drop per cigarette during week one, two drops during week two and three drops from week three onwards. Fluid soaks into the cigarette filter, trapping nicotine and tar and preventing them from entering the body. The product is being distributed by Galpharm Healthcare, Upper Cliffe Road, Dodworth Business Park, Dodworth, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S75 3SP (tel 01226 779911, fax 01226 779168).



810644) from 2 December: Asendis 50mg and 100mg tablets; Audiocort drops; Aureocort ointment; Deteclor 300mg tablets; Diamox 250mg tablets, 250mg sustained-release capsules and 500mg injection powder; Dimotane, Dimotane Plus and Dimotane Plus Paediatric elixirs; Lederfen 300mg capsules and tablets and 450mg tablets; Ledermycin 150mg capsules; leucovorin 15mg tablets and 15mg and 30mg powder for injections; methotrexate 2.5mg tablets and 50mg, 200mg, 500mg, 1g and 5g injections; thiotepa 15mg injection.

### Eli Lilly move

The United Kingdom subsidiary of Eli Lilly & Co has moved to new offices in Basingstoke. The new address is Lilly House, Priestley Road, Basingstoke RG24 9NL. Product and medical enquiries should be made on 01256 315999.

### BSHP e-mail

The British Society for the History of Pharmacy can be contacted by e-mail at the new address of bshp@associationhq.org.uk. Membership of the group for the year from January 2003 will be £20.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Actiq transfer

Cephalon UK has assumed responsibility for Actiq (fentanyl citrate) lozenges. For Medical information enquiries contact 0800 783 4869 (e-mail medinfo@cephalon.com).

### Celltech transfer

Celltech Pharmaceuticals is now supplying propylthiouracil 50mg tablets (pack size 100) previously supplied by IVAX. The product will be available from Celltech in 56-tablet packs from December. In addition, colchicine 500µg tablets (100) will be available in December. Orders can be placed on 0800 953 0183 (fax 0800 953 0184).

### Sandoglobulin transfer

ZLB Bioplasma UK has assumed responsibility for Sandoglobulin (human normal immunoglobulin for intravenous administration). Further information can be obtained from Jonathan Sheard, ZLB Bioplasma UK, Breckland House, St Nicholas Street, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 1BT (tel 01842 755025). Orders can be placed with Stephanie Day at Healthcare Logistics on 01753 650099.

### Goldshield distribution

The following products, obtained from Wyeth by Goldshield earlier this year, will be distributed for Goldshield by Unidrug Distribution Group (tel 01773 510123, fax 01773

### Retail sales figures

The value of retail sales for August 2002, under the classification of pharmaceutical sales, was up five points at 129. The value for September was up eight points at 127. The figure for the third quarter of 2002 was up seven at 130.

The classification of the retail sale of pharmaceutical, medical, cosmetic and toilet goods excludes National Health Service receipts. The figures are based on returns made by a number of large retail pharmacy chains, but exclude Boots The Chemists, which is classified under non-specialised retail stores. The figures are compiled by the Office for National Statistics.

### Learning in pharmacy

Proceedings of the Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, conference on "Experiential teaching and learning in pharmacy" (P7, 19 October, p583) are available through its website ([www.vcp.monash.edu.au/practice/symposia](http://www.vcp.monash.edu.au/practice/symposia)).

## APPOINTMENTS

### Nucare

Alan Turner has been appointed commercial manager at Nucare. Mr Turner was formerly special projects manager, covering branding and merchandising, and will assume responsibility for negotiating with suppliers and wholesalers.

FUTURE EVENTS

PET scanning

UK Radiopharmacy Group two-day workshop on "Positron emission tomography and PET radiopharmaceuticals", Bourneville, Birmingham, 16-17 January 2003. Cost £150. Accommodation, including evening meal and breakfast, is available for £65. Details from Paul Maltby on 0151 706 4521 (e-mail paul.maltby@rlbuh-tr.nwest.nhs.uk).

Project management

*Pharmacy Management* courses on "Project management", Belfast, 10 February 2003; Stirling, 11 February; London, 3 March; Gatwick, 4 March; Birmingham, 10 March; Leicester, 11 March; Manchester, 17 March; Leeds, 18 March; Cardiff, 31 March; Bristol, 1 April; Cambridge, 7 April. Courses will cover planning, risk management, people management, budgeting and report writing. Details from Samantha Butler on 0118 984 4977 (e-mail info@pharman.co.uk).

Biotechnology

University of Warwick short course on "An introduction to biotechnology", 31 March to 1 April 2003. Details from Dr Charlotte Moonan, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL (tel 024 7652 3540, e-mail charlotte.moonan@warwick.ac.uk).

Vitiligo

Vitiligo Society international symposium on "Vitiligo", Royal College of Physicians, London, 16-17 May 2003. Cost before 31 January 2003 £195 for pharmacists, £100 for nurses and students. Details from Joanna Prendergast, Conference Executive, Hampton Medical Conferences, 127 High Street, Teddington, Middlesex (tel 020 8977 0011, e-mail vitiligo@hamptonmedical.com).

WANTS LIST

Anticoagulation

Helen James, of Barnsley District General Hospital, wants to hear from pharmacists who are interested in anticoagulation. She has set up a discussion group at [uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/pharmaclot](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/pharmaclot). Anyone who has difficulty in joining the group can contact her on 01226 777959 (e-mail helen.james@bdgh-trent.nhs.uk).

CPD and IT

Jo Goulding, of the National Health Service Information Authority, wants to hear from pharmacists working in information technology who are interested in taking part in

Lloydspharmacy branch of the year award



The branch at Trench Road, Londonderry, Northern Ireland, has been named Lloydspharmacy branch of the year winning £1,500 to be divided as its employees decide. The Lloydspharmacy branches within Asda Scunthorpe and Wychbury Medical Centre, Stourbridge, were second and third collecting £1,000 and £500, respectively. For the competition, each branch had to produce a scrapbook showing how they had achieved their business plan over the year. Seven regional finalists were given one month to organise a successful smoking cessation campaign using materials supplied by GlaxoSmithKline. The photograph shows (left to right): back row, Peter Hinkley (sales director, GSK), Michael Ward (chief executive, Lloydspharmacy); front row, Amanda Gillespie (pharmacy dispenser), Noreen Doherty (supervisor), Liz Brolly (pharmacist manager) and John McArdle (area manager).

discussions early next year about continuing professional development. She can be contacted on 0121 333 0333 (e-mail jo.goulding@nhsia.nhs.uk).

CD prescribing

Gill Daddow, of Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth, wants to hear from anyone who can suggest ways in which prescribers can be encouraged to grasp the legal requirements for Controlled Drug prescriptions right first time so as to reduce errors. She can be contacted on 023 9228 6000 ext 5282 (e-mail steane@tiscali.co.uk).

ABOUT PEOPLE

Ethics committee

Dr Dai John, MRPharmS, has been appointed to the multicentre research ethics committee for Wales by the National Assembly for Wales. The Welsh committee is one of 12 in the United Kingdom giving independent advice and approval for medical research in human subjects. Dr John is senior lecturer in clinical pharmacy, law, ethics and practice at the Welsh school of pharmacy.

Customer care

Lara Otunla, MRPharmS, and Georgia Michael, MRPharmS, of The Olde Pharmacy, Wandsworth,

London, recently won the outstanding customer care section of the Wandsworth Business Awards.

Welsh school of pharmacy

Following the retirement of Dr Tony Armstrong, FRPharmS, senior lecturer in pharmaceutical technology, from the Welsh school of pharmacy, Cardiff University, after 37 years' service, a number of changes have been made in the teaching staff. Professor Saghir Akhtar (drug delivery), Dr Andrea

Brancale (lecturer in medicinal chemistry), Dr Will Ford (lecturer in pharmacology), Dr Louise Hughes, MRPharmS (teaching fellow in clinical and professional pharmacy), and Dr Maya Thanou (lecturer in drug delivery) have been appointed to academic posts and Dr Dai John, MRPharmS, has been promoted to senior lecturer in clinical pharmacy, law, ethics and practice. Andrew Sully, MRPharmS, is part-time professional liaison pharmacist with responsibility for arranging placements and preregistration training. Paul Gimson, MRPharmS (primary care), Dr Ailsa Jones, MRPharmS (National Co-operative Chemists) and Simon Wilkins, MRPharmS (Tesco) join as teacher-practitioners.

Primary care

Dr Brian Curwain, MRPharmS, has been appointed acting head of primary care at New Forest Primary Care Trust. He will have responsibility for co-ordinating work on modernising primary care services and working with contractors. Dr Curwain is chief pharmacist for the PCT.

AWARDS

Schering award

The College of Pharmacy Practice is seeking nominations for its 2002 Schering award. The award is given annually to a pharmacist who has made an outstanding contribution to pharmacy practice. Nominations should be made in writing to Ian Simpson, Chief Executive, College of Pharmacy Practice, Barclays Venture Centre, University of Warwick Science Park, Sir William Lyons Road, Coventry CV4 7EZ.

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