

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

**Amiodarone tablets**  
CP Pharmaceuticals has launched amiodarone 200mg tablets; net price, £6.45.

**Loratadine tablets**  
APS/Berk has launched loratadine 10mg tablets, pack size 30; net price, £6.43.

SPC CHANGES

**Efexor tablets and Efexor XL capsules**  
The summaries of product characteristics for Efexor (venlafaxine) tablets and Efexor XL capsules have been updated (Wyeth Pharmaceuticals). Under the undesirable effects section, ataxia and speech disorders, including dysarthria, have been added as rare neurological disorders. Dyskinesia, dystonia, mania and hypomania are now noted as extrapyramidal disorders. See SPC.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

**Fenbufen tablets and capsules**  
Genus Pharmaceuticals will no longer be stocking fenbufen 300mg tablets and capsules, pack size 84 and fenbufen 450mg tablets, pack size 56.

SUPPLY PROBLEMS

**Pro-Epanutin infusion**  
It is expected that Pro-Epanutin (fosphenytoin) concentrate for infusion will be out of stock by mid-December due to manufacturing difficulties (Pfizer). The situation may last for three to four weeks. For enquiries regarding stock contact the company's customer services department (tel 01304 645262). For all other enquiries contact medical information (tel 01737 331111).

**Palfium tablets**  
Palfium (dextromoramide) 5mg tablets are now out of stock and Palfium 10mg tablets are expected to be out of stock by late December (Roche). This is because of manufacturing problems. The 5mg tablets are expected to be back in stock by late January. However, the 10mg tablets will not be back in stock before the end of March. Questions regarding emergency supplies should be directed to Roche customer services (tel 0800 731 5711). Drug information should be contacted for medical information enquiries (tel 0800 328 1629). For emergency out of hours enquiries telephone 01707 366000.

Oshwal Pharmacists fund raising



The Oshwal Pharmacists group held its 22nd annual ball recently. A raffle held at the ball raised £250 for the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's benevolent fund and £500 for the Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association's Pharmaid scheme. The photograph shows (left to right): Geeta Shah, Mukesh Shah (chairman), Hemu Harania, Veni Harania (chief guest), Rejula Dodhia, Hitesh Dodhia (treasurer), Daksha Maroo, Dilip Maroo (secretary).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**De Montfort awards**  
The following pharmacists have been awarded postgraduate certificates or diplomas in clinical pharmacy by the school of pharmacy, De Montfort University, Leicester (\* with distinction): *certificate* Miu Lan Chan, Debra Pam, Jaymani Patel, William Polley, Margaret Stephen, David Tweed; *diploma for community pharmacists* Anna Atkinson\*, Saiyeda Ashfaq-Hussain, Sharonjit Gahir, Kiran Hindocha, Sandhya Kanabar\*, Alison Smith, Prity Sodha, Catherine Sturdivant; *diploma for hospital pharmacists* Cathy Crawford-Hines\*, Kirsty Elliot\*, Anne Iveson\*, Elizabeth Lewis, Sarah Richards\*.

**Postdoctoral research award**  
Individuals with a health-related doctorate or masters degree who are interested in applying for a three-year Department of Health postdoctoral research award in conjunction with the School of Pharmacy, University of London, should contact Dr Jo Barnes, centre for pharmacognosy and phytotherapy, by e-mail (joanne.barnes@ulsop.ac.uk) by 31 December.

APPOINTMENTS

**Pharmacy Healthcare scheme**  
Professor Sian Griffiths, president of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine, Royal College of Physicians, has been appointed chairman of the Pharmacy Healthcare scheme from January 2003.

CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

**Alliance Pharmaceuticals**  
The medical information and sales department will be closed from 4pm on 24 December until 9am on 2 January 2003. An emergency service will be available on 07666 546289.

**AstraZeneca**  
The offices will be closed from 5pm on 24 December until 8.30am on 2 January 2003. The medical information department will be available on 0800 783 0033 or 01582 836836 and customer services on 01582 837837 from 9am to 4pm on 27, 30 and 31 December. Outside these times, medical information is available by fax (01582 838003) or e-mail (medical.informationGB@astrazene.ca.com) and customer services can be contacted by fax (01582 838038) or e-mail (customer.services@astrazene.ca.com). An emergency service will be available on 07785 577240.

**Distribraph**  
The distribution centre will be closed from midday on 24 December until 1 January 2003, and customer services will be closed on 25 and 26 December and 2 January 2003. An out of hours on call emergency service will be available. Orders must be received by 13 December otherwise delivery cannot be guaranteed until the week commencing 7 January 2003.

**William Ransom & Son**  
The office and production plant will be closed from 12.30pm on 24 December until 8.30am on 2 January 2003.

FUTURE EVENTS

**PCNE international conference**  
Pharmaceutical Care Network Europe third international working conference, in conjunction with the Danish College of Pharmacy Practice, on "Pharmaceutical care research — the next generation", Hillerød, Denmark, 12–16 February 2003. Information and registration details from Anja Sichlau on +45 4820 6374, fax +45 4820 6062, e-mail ans@pharmakon.dk or from the PCNE website [www.pcne.org](http://www.pcne.org).

CORRECTIONS

**Tribute**  
The tribute to the late Alan Briggs in our issue of 23 November (p763) was written by Joan Greenleaf, not Joan Greenwood as stated.

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