

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

ReQuip tablets

A follow-on pack of ReQuip (ropinirole) tablets will be available from 6 January 2003 (GlaxoSmithKline). The packs will contain 42 x 0.5mg, 42 x 1mg and 63 x 2mg tablets; net price, £80. A new starter pack, containing 42 x 250µg, 42 x 0.5mg and 21 x 1mg tablets, has replaced the original starter pack (see below).

SPC CHANGES

Calpol Six Plus suspension

The summaries of product characteristics for Calpol Six Plus (paracetamol) suspension and Calpol Six Plus sugar and colour-free suspension have been updated (Pfizer Consumer Healthcare). The products are no longer recommended in children under six years of age. See SPC.

COUNTER MEDICINES

Packaging redesign

The packaging for products in the Calpol (paracetamol) range has been redesigned as shown below (Pfizer Consumer Healthcare).



DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Filair inhaler

Filair (beclometasone) 250µg inhaler, containing 200 doses, has been discontinued (Alpharma).

ReQuip starter packs

Starter packs of ReQuip (ropinirole) tablets containing 210 x 250µg tablets have been discontinued (GlaxoSmithKline).

SUPPLY PROBLEMS

Sofratulle gauze

Supply problems are being experienced with Sofratulle (framycetin)

CHRISTMAS MISCELLANY

Brain teaser

The answer to the student pharmacist's brain teaser (p911) is 168 grains or 2 drachms 48 grains.

sulphate) gauze (Aventis). Aventis is not holding any back orders and will be cancelling any existing orders. The company's customer services department can be contacted for enquiries (tel 0870 5133347).

CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

BCM Specials

The offices will close at 1pm on 24 December and be open from 8am to 5pm on 27, 30 and 31 December. A voicemail service will operate outside these hours on 0800 952 1010. Normal service will resume at 8am on 2 January 2003.

Bristol-Myers Squibb

The offices will be closed from 3pm on 24 December until 9am on 2 January 2003. The medical information department will be available on 0800 731 1736 or 020 8754 3740 from 10am to 4pm on 27, 30 and 31 December. Customer services will be available on 01244 586250 on 27, 30 and 31 December. Outside these times, an emergency service will be available on 020 8572 7422.

College of Pharmacy Practice

The offices will be closed from 5.30pm on 23 December until 8.30am on 2 January 2003. Messages left during this time will be dealt with as soon as possible in the new year.

National Pharmaceutical Association

The offices will close at 5pm on 24 December and reopen on 30 December. The offices will also be closed on 1 January 2003.

Novartis Pharmaceuticals

The offices will be closed from noon on 24 December until 2 January 2003. Medical information will be available until 4pm on 24 December and between 10am and 4pm on 27, 30 and 31 December on 01276 698370. Orders can be placed between 10am and 2pm on 27, 30 and 31 December on 0845 741 9442. An emergency service will be available outside these hours.

Roche

The medical information service will be closed from 5pm on 23 December until 9am on 2 January 2003. An emergency service will be available on 01707 366000 during this time. Customer services will close at 4pm on 24 December and reopen as normal on 2 January 2003. A skeleton service will be available between 9am and 4pm on 27, 30 and 31 December. Emergency supplies outside these hours can be obtained through the number above.

RECALLED PRODUCTS

Amiodarone hydrochloride ampoules

The following batches of amiodarone hydrochloride 50mg/ml sterile concentrate ampoules, delivered in the livery of Faulding Pharmaceuticals, have been recalled (Mayne Pharma):

Batch number	Expiry date	Pack size
1251-02	September 2003	3ml (150mg) x 10
1251-03	September 2003	3ml (150mg) x 10
1251-04	October 2003	3ml (150mg) x 10
1251-05	October 2003	3ml (150mg) x 10
1252-01	September 2003	6ml (300mg) x 10
1252-02	September 2003	6ml (300mg) x 10

It was found during routine stability testing that these batches may be out-of-specification for free iodides before the end of their shelf-life. Recipients are requested to quarantine stocks of these batches and return them to their supplier for credit or replacement. Further information can be obtained from Medical Information, Mayne Pharma, Queensway, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 3RW (tel 01926 821010).

Neomercazole tablets

The following batches of Neomercazole (carbimazole) 20mg tablets have been recalled (Roche Products):

Batch number	Expiry date	Pack size
WE0140	March 2005	100
WE0141	March 2007	100

These batches have been found to contain up to 20 per cent of sub-potent tablets which may be as little as half the strength stated on the label. Recipients are requested to quarantine stocks of these batches and return them to their supplier for credit or replacement. Further information can be obtained from Roche Customer Services, Roche Products, 40 Broadwater Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 3AY (tel 0800 731 5711).

THE JOURNAL

CPD pilot deadline extended

Due to demand, the deadline for sending in answers and reports to the College of Pharmacy Practice for *The Journal's* second continuing professional development pilot has been extended to 27 January 2003. Submission can be made to Dot Kettell at the College of Pharmacy Practice, University of Warwick Science Park, Barclays Venture Centre, Sir William Lyons Road, Coventry CV4 7EZ, or by e-mail

to info@collpharm.org.uk. E-mails should contain the phrase "FAO: Mrs Dot Kettell" in the subject line.

CORRECTIONS

Broad Spectrum

The second author of last week's Broad Spectrum article, "Putting children first" (P7, 14 December, p843), was Dr Seau-Tak Cheung from the department of medicine at the University Hospital Birmingham NHS Trust and not as stated.

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