

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Movicol-Half sachets

Movicol-Half sachets, each containing macrogol 3350 6.563g, sodium chloride 175.4mg, sodium bicarbonate 89.3mg and potassium chloride 23.3mg, have been launched (Norgine); net price, 20 £2.99, 30 £4.48. Legal category: pharmacy medicine.

SPC CHANGES

Glivec new indication

The licensed indications for Glivec (imatinib) capsules have been extended (Novartis Pharmaceuticals). Glivec is now additionally indicated for the treatment of patients with newly diagnosed Philadelphia chromosome (Bcr-Abl) positive chronic myeloid leukaemia for whom bone marrow transplantation is not considered as first-line treatment. See SPC.

Oramorph unit dose vials

The summary of product characteristics for Oramorph (morphine sulphate) unit dose vials has been updated (Boehringer Ingelheim). Under the shelf-life section it additionally states: "Once opened, use immediately." The special precautions for storage section now says "do not store above 25°C". "Protect from light" has been replaced with "keep container in outer carton". See SPC.

SUPPLY PROBLEMS

Depo-Provera vials

Supply of Depo-Provera (medroxyprogesterone acetate) 150mg/ml 1ml vials has been resumed (Pharmacia).

Intal inhalers

Supply problems are being experienced with Intal (sodium cromoglicate) inhalers, 5mg per metered

inhalation, 112 doses (Aventis). Aventis will not be holding back orders and will be cancelling existing orders. Queries should be directed to the company's customer services department (tel 0870 513 3347).

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Xylocaine with adrenaline

Xylocaine (lidocaine hydrochloride) 0.5 per cent with adrenaline 1:200,000 vials have been discontinued (AstraZeneca).

Diclofenac sodium tablets

Pharmacia has discontinued diclofenac sodium 25mg and 50mg tablets, pack size 84, with immediate effect.

PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

Alocclair mouth wash

Alocclair mouth wash, containing polyvinylpyrrolidone, for the relief of pain caused by mouth ulcers and other minor traumas such as those caused by dentures and braces, is being launched (Forest Laboratories); retail price, 60ml £4.99, 120ml £7.99.

ABOUT PEOPLE

Medicines management

Annie Coppel, MRPharmS, has been elected chairman of the College of Pharmacy Practice's faculty of prescribing and medicines management. Rosalind Grant, MRPharmS, and Heidi Wright, MRPharmS, have been elected to the faculty's board.

WANTS LIST

Cancer relief challenge

Dr Angela Alexander, FRPharmS, wants to hear from anyone who can

sponsor her to take part in the Costa Rica Hiking Challenge, a 10-day trek through forests and swamps. Dr Alexander is aiming to raise £6,000 for Macmillan Cancer Relief. Those able to help can send cheques payable to "Macmillan Cancer Relief Fund" to 23 Switchback Road South, Maidenhead SL6 7QE or complete the online form at www.angalexander.co.uk/sponsor.htm.

FUTURE EVENTS

Marketing presentations

Pharmaceutical Marketing Society meeting on "Killer presentations", Innovex, Marlow, 12 February, 6.30 for 7pm. Cost for members £47, non-members £94. Details from Vivian Bennett, Secretary, PM Society, PO Box 200, Horsham RH12 3FA (tel 01403 264898).

Clinical skills

United Kingdom Clinical Pharmacy Association weekend school on "Developing clinical practice skills in pharmaceutical care", Hilton Hotel, Leeds, 4-6 April. Cost for members £290, non-members £360.

Details from Pat Kennedy on 0116 277 6999.

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. 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

Professional liability

The Pharmacy Insurance Agency does not offer professional indemnity insurance for pharmacy owners, as reported last week (p9).

The Pharmaceutical Journal is the official journal of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Founded in 1841, it has been published weekly since 1870.

- **Editorial** Correspondence concerning editorial contents should be addressed to: The Editor, *The Pharmaceutical Journal*, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2420 or 020 7735 9141, fax 020 7572 2504, e-mail editor@pharmj.org.uk).

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- **Subscriptions** Annual subscription rates for non-members (2003): UK £140; overseas £190 (£275 with priority surcharge). Reduced rates are available for students in pharmaceutical disciplines resident in Great Britain (£45) and for members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (£95). Single copy, UK and overseas, £6, inclusive of postage. Correspondence concerning subscriptions should be addressed to: The Pharmaceutical Press, PO Box 151, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 8QU, UK (tel 01491 829272, fax 01491 829292, e-mail rpsgb@cabi.org).

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