

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Temazepam tablets

Alpharma has launched temazepam 10mg tablets, pack size 28, in Cox Pharmaceuticals livery; net price, 98p.

Ciprofloxacin tablets

Ciprofloxacin tablets are available from Pliva Pharma; net price, 250mg 10 £6.75, 250mg 20 £13.50, 500mg 10 £12.78, 500mg 20 £25.56, 750mg 10 £18.

SPC CHANGES

Nyogel eye gel

The summary of product characteristics for Nyogel (timolol maleate) 0.1 per cent eye gel has been updated (Novartis Pharmaceuticals). The following statement has been added to the special precautions for storage section: "Store the dropper bottle upside down in the carton below 25°C after first opening." This is so that the gel collects in the neck of the bottle, preventing bubbles forming when it is applied. See SPC.

Spiriva inhalation capsules

The summary of product characteristics for Spiriva (tiotropium bromide monohydrate) inhalation capsules has been updated (Boehringer Ingelheim). The shelf-life has been extended from 18 to 24 months. See SPC.

Uftoral capsules

The summary of product characteristics for Uftoral (tegafur with uracil) capsules has been revised (Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals). The special warnings and precautions for use section now states that liver function should be monitored during treatment in patients with mild to moderate hepatic dysfunction. The interactions section notes that several fatalities have occurred in patients following the co-administration of Uftoral and the antiviral sorivudine (not marketed in the United Kingdom). It is recommended under the pregnancy and lactation section that if pregnancy occurs during treatment with Uftoral, genetic counselling should be considered. Adverse reactions that have been reported after marketing have been added to the undesirable effects section. See SPC.

Videx EC capsules

The summary of product characteristics for Videx EC (didanosine) capsules has been updated (Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals). The licensed indication for Videx has been reworded and now says

"indicated in combination with other antiretroviral drugs" instead of "as part of combination therapy". Information has been added to the special warnings and precautions for use and the interactions sections regarding an interaction between didanosine and tenofovir disoproxil. Patients receiving both drugs should be monitored for didanosine-related adverse events. The undesirable effects section has been rewritten and information on laboratory abnormalities and postmarketing experience added. Further information has been added to the pharmacokinetics section regarding viral resistance and information regarding the metabolism of didanosine has been added under a subsection headed biotransformation. See SPC.

COUNTER MEDICINES

Zirtek Allergy tablets

A 30-tablet pack of Zirtek Allergy (cetirizine) 10mg tablets, licensed as a pharmacy medicine, is replacing the 30-tablet pack of Zirtek tablets (UCB Pharma).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October and November retail sales figures

The value of retail sales for October 2002, under the classification of pharmaceutical sales, was up six points at 129. The value for November 2002 was up six points at 143.

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 Ltd, which is classified under non-specialised retail stores. The figures are compiled by the Office for National Statistics.

Bradford diplomas

The following pharmacists have been awarded postgraduate diplomas in community clinical pharmacy by the University of Bradford (* with distinction): Christine Auckland*, Carol Brown*, Lorraine Crawford*, Karen Elliott, Joanne Fitzpatrick*, Rachel Knight, Saijal Ladd, Joanne Madden, Margaret March, Patricia Morton, Graham Pickup, Helen Roe, Stephen Woods*.

De Montfort diplomas

The following pharmacists have been awarded postgraduate certificates and diplomas by De Montfort University, Leicester (* with distinction): *certificate in clinical pharmacy*

Miu Lan Chan, Debra Pam, Jaymani Patel, William Polley, Margaret Stephen, David Tweed; *diploma in community clinical pharmacy* Saiyeda Ashfaq-Hussain, Anna Atkinson*, Kay Atkinson, Sharonjit Gahir, Kiran Hindocha, Sandhya Kanabar*, Alison Smith, Prity Sodha, Catherine Sturdivant; *diploma in hospital clinical pharmacy* Cathy Crawford-Hines*, Kirsty Elliott*, Anne Iveson*, Elizabeth Lewis, Sarah Richards*.

FUTURE EVENTS

Control of entry

All-Party Parliamentary Pharmacy Group special meeting on "Control of entry in the pharmacy market: inquiry into the Office of Fair Trading report", Grand Committee Room, House of Commons, 10 February, 5.30pm. Guest speakers John Evans (Asda) and John D'Arcy (National Pharmaceutical Association). Details from Louise Baskin on 020 7618 9100.

Collaboration and rationing Event Force conference on "Pharmacy 2003: maximising opportunities for collaborative care", Manchester 26-27 February. The conference will cover the pharmacy plan for England and includes a debate on rationing health care. Cost £411.25 including accommodation. Details from Sharon Reeve, Event Force Ltd, 76A Sheen Lane, London SW14 8LP (tel 020 8939 6392, e-mail pharma@event-force.co.uk).

Local pharmaceutical services

Webstar Health conference on "Stakeholder perspectives on local pharmaceutical services", Queen Elizabeth II conference centre, London, 4 March. Cost £117.50 for

public sector, £176.25 for private sector. Details from LPS Conference, Webstar Health, 336 Pinner Road, North Harrow HA1 4LB (tel 020 8424 0860).

Pharmacy revolution

Institute of Pharmacy Management International residential meeting on "The community pharmacy revolution", Hilton Hotel, York, 5-6 April. Cost £195 for members, £255 for non-members. Details from Hazel Macted, IPMI Conference Administrator, 52 Park Avenue East, Ewell, Surrey KT17 2NY. Telephone inquiries to Nicholas Wood on 01277 823889 (e-mail enelwood@compuserve.com).

WANTS LIST

Copper and zinc sulphate

Dr Neville Rosedale wants to hear from any pharmacist who is able to prepare a supply of copper and zinc sulphate lotion BPC (lotio alibour) for him. He can be contacted at 46 Hatherley Court, Hatherley Grove, London W2 5RE (tel 020 7727 9639).

RESOURCES

Heart information line

A telephone service, "Heart information line", which provides information about heart disease to patients and health care professionals, is now available throughout the United Kingdom (tel 08450 708070). The service, run by the British Heart Foundation, was previously operated on a trial basis in the south west of England. It is open from Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm.

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).

• **Advertising** Correspondence concerning *Journal* advertisements should be addressed to: The Advertisement Manager, *The Pharmaceutical Journal*, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7735 9141, fax 020 7572 2505, e-mail advertdept@rpsgb.org.uk).

• **Members** Members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society should notify changes of address to the Registration Section, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN. Members resident overseas may have their copies sent on a priority basis on payment of an additional annual charge of £85.

• **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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FIP going down under — programme for the 63rd congress, in Sydney

The International Pharmaceutical Federation will hold its 63rd congress from 4 to 9 September in Sydney, Australia. The congress theme is “Developing a new contract between pharmacy and society (risk management and improving outcomes)”.



Symposia The board of pharmaceutical sciences is running two symposia:

- Oral drug delivery and absorption — mechanisms and problem-solving strategies
- Input of genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics to drug discovery

The board of pharmaceutical practice is running five symposia:

- A new health system for the 21st century — crossing the quality chasm
- How does pharmacy add value? Reducing risks, improving outcomes
- What does patient-centred practice mean for pharmacy?
- Drug prescribers and pharmaceutical carers in integrated health care
- Public accountability

Community pharmacy section The community pharmacy section has organised a continuing professional development programme (separate registration) aimed at community pharmacists, educators and policy-makers. The programme, “Payment, dissemination and implementation of professional services”, began at last year’s congress in Nice and will conclude next year in New Orleans.

The section’s working group on quality care standards will also present the results of its work.

Hospital pharmacy section The hospital pharmacy section has symposia on:

- Antimicrobial resistance
- Quality use of medicines in hospitals

Industrial pharmacy section The industrial pharmacy section will hold a symposium entitled:

- Pharmaceutical clinical technology — a new discipline in pharmacy

It will co-host a workshop with the community section entitled:

- Industrial and community pharmacists — allies in concordance and better health care outcomes

Other sections There will be meetings of the administrative pharmacy, clinical biology, laboratories and medicines control services, medicinal and aromatic plants, military and emergency pharmacy, and pharmacy information sections.

Congress fees Until 1 May, registration fees (euros) are as follows:

- FIP members 490, non-members 750, students and recent graduates 200
- After 1 May and before 1 August the fees increase: members 590, non-members 850, students and recent graduates 250

- After 1 August, registration will only be available on site, when the fees will be 900 for members and non-members, and 300 for students and recent graduates

Accompanying persons (maximum of two per participant) pay 200 whatever the time of booking. In addition, day cards will be available on site at 275.

Travel, accommodation and tours Special air fares have been negotiated with Singapore Airlines. Hotel accommodation can be booked in advance at a range of hotels in all price categories. A variety of pre- and post-congress tours will be available.

Further information Registration forms and copies of the programme are available from FIP Congresses and Conferences, PO Box 84200, 2508 AE The Hague, The Netherlands (tel +31 70 302 1982, fax +31 70 302 1998, e-mail congress@fip.org).

The FIP website (www.fip.org) gives detailed up-to-date information on the congress and other matters. Electronic registration will be available shortly.

CPA in the sun — programme for the eighth conference, in Jamaica

The Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association will hold its eighth conference, in association with the Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica, from Thursday 14 to Sunday 17 August in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. The overall conference theme is “Pharmacy practice changes: better patient outcomes”.

Conference sessions During the four days of the conference, regional and international speakers will look at how developments in pharmacy practice are providing improved health outcomes throughout the Commonwealth. Each day will have a different focus.

- The theme for Thursday is “Pharmacy practice in the 21st century”. A keynote address on the impact of genomics on pharmacy will be followed by sessions on health care in the Caribbean and the Commonwealth, pharmacy practice connecting communities, e-pharmacy, electronic educa-

tion and internet medicines, and rural pharmacy

- The Friday theme is “The many faces of human development”. Sessions will include lifestyle and disease, obesity, women’s health, geriatric medicine management, complementary therapies, herbal treatments, antioxidants and nutritional supplements
- The main Saturday event is an HIV/AIDS workshop in association with the Commonwealth Secretariat. An alternative session will look at the pharmacist’s role in managing asthma, arthritis and type 2 diabetes.
- The theme for Sunday is “Nature, the environment and health”, with sessions on sunlight’s impact on health, skin care, wound management, travel medicine, vector-borne disease and immunisation

Conference fees The full registration fee, which includes the official social events, is as follows:



- For those staying in the conference hotel (whose meals and refreshments are covered by the all-inclusive hotel accommodation rate), the full fee for bookings made by 31 March is US\$225 for members of pharmaceutical associations and US\$250 for others.
- For those staying in other hotels the full fee (including meals and refreshments) is US\$350 for members and US\$370 for non-members if paid by 31 March.

All fees rise by US\$25 on 1 April and a further amount on 1 July. Bona fide pharmacy students, pharmacy interns and pharmacy assistants are entitled to a 10 per cent discount.

Social events An international night of entertainment on Friday and a gala dinner on Saturday are included in the full fee.

Travel, accommodation and tours Discounted air fares are being negotiated. All-inclusive accommodation is offered in the conference hotel (the Renaissance Jamaica Grande Resort) and bed and breakfast accommodation is offered in a choice of nearby hotels. A range of pre- and post-congress tours will be available.

Further information Registration forms and copies of the programme are available from CPA, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2364; fax 020 7572 2508; e-mail bfaconbridge@rpsgb.org.uk). The CPA website (www.rpsgb.org.uk/international) gives up-to-date information on the conference. Electronic registration is available through the website of the Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica (psj.org.jm/CPA).