

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Elidel cream

Elidel (pimecrolimus) 1 per cent cream is now available in 60g and 100g tubes (Novartis Pharmaceuticals); net price, 60g £37.41, 100g £59.07.

Ketoprofen Gel

Ketoprofen Gel 2.5 per cent has been launched (PLIVA Pharma); net price, 50g £3.39, 100g £6.78. The product is licensed for the symptomatic relief of pain in conditions such as soft tissue injuries (including sports injuries, sprains and musculo-tendonitis), backache and rheumatic pain.

Lasoride tablets

The only available stock of Lasoride (amiloride hydrochloride 5mg with furosemide 40mg) tablets, pack size 28, has an expiry date of 31 July (Distriphar). Distriphar expects a new consignment of the product in March but is asking customers to accept current stock on a sale or return basis. Further queries should be directed to the company's customer services department (tel 0870 513 3347).

Insuman Combi 25 cartridges

The only available stock of Insuman Combi 25 cartridges, pack size 5 x 3ml, has an expiry date of 31 July (Aventis). Aventis expects a new consignment of the product in March but is asking customers to accept current stock on a sale or return basis. Further queries should be directed to the company's customer services department (tel 0870 513 3347).

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Minulet tablets

Minulet (gestodene with ethinyl-estradiol) tablets, pack size 21 x 54, are being discontinued with immediate effect (Wyeth Pharmaceuticals). The 21 x 3 pack size is still available. Any queries should be directed to the company's customer services department (tel 0845 850 5544, e-mail watwcus@wyeth.com).

Terramycin tablets

Terramycin (oxytetracycline) 250mg tablets, pack size 28, will be discontinued from 21 February (Pfizer). Further information can be obtained from the company's customer services department (tel 01304 645262).

Tritace capsules

Tritace (ramipril) 5mg capsules, pack size 21, are being discontinued with immediate effect (Aventis).

The 28-capsule pack remains available. Further information can be obtained from the company's customer services department (tel 0870 513 3347).

SPC CHANGES

Fludara powder for solution

The summary of product characteristics for Fludara (fludarabine) powder for solution for injection or infusion has been updated (Schering Health Care). Fludara is now indicated for initial treatment of patients with advanced chronic lymphocytic leukaemia or after first line therapy. Information on doses for use in patients with renal impairment has been updated. See SPC.

Velosef syrup

The summary of product characteristics for Velosef (cephradine) syrup and capsules has been amended (Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals). The list of excipients section now lists the following flavouring agents included in the syrup: blood-orange flavour, cinnamon flavour and tutti frutti flavour. See SPC.

PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

Cryogestic Direct Stream

Cryogestic Direct Stream containing ethyl chloride has been launched (Acorus Therapeutics); net price, 100ml £11.89.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vectavir Cold Sore cream

The product licence for Vectavir (penciclovir) Cold Sore cream has been transferred from Novartis Pharmaceuticals to Novartis Consumer Health. Enquiries should now be directed to Novartis Consumer Health, Wimbleshurst Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 4AB (tel medical information 01403 323046, orders 01403 218111).

Visions of Science awards

Pharmacists are invited to take part in the 2003 Visions of Science photographic awards, sponsored by Novartis and the *Daily Telegraph*. One of the awards, the health care award, is for the best image that shows the impact of science and medicine on people's lives, with prize money of £500. Another award, the DNA award, is for the best image about DNA, the science of genetics or its impact on people's lives, with prize money of £500. Further information on 020 7613 5577 or from the awards website (www.visions-of-science.co.uk).

RECALLED PRODUCTS

Metrodin High Purity

All suppliers of Metrodin High Purity (urofollitrophin as follicle-stimulating hormone) 75iu and 150iu ampoules are recalling existing stocks of the product as a precautionary measure. Supply of the product is being permanently discontinued with immediate effect. Full batch number details are not currently available for all suppliers, however, stocks of all batches should be quarantined and returned to the supplier as follows: **Serono** Recipients are requested to return any packs remaining in stock for credit by 31 March to Serono, c/o UniDrug Distribution Group, South Normanton, Derby, DE55 2FH. Credit claims for reimbursement should be forwarded to customer services at the above address (tel 01773 510123). Questions should be directed to Serono medical information (tel 0800 783 4661).

Other suppliers Chemilines (tel 020 8799 7600) u Dowelhurst (tel 0800 731 4040) u Global Pharmaceuticals (tel 020 8974 2786) u OPD Laboratories (tel 01923 331409 or 01923 444999) u Primecrown (tel 01895 810787, fax 01895 812306) u Stepfar (UK) (tel 01493 650069) u Swinghope (tel 020 8675 6918) u Swingward (tel 020 8523 5500) u Waymade (tel 01268 535222) u

FUTURE EVENTS

Medication problems

Royal College of Physicians conference on "Problems and perils of prescription medicines", Regent's Park, London, 22 May. Cost £150. Details from Conference Office, Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE (tel 020 7935 1174 ext 436, e-mail conferences@rcplondon.ac.uk).

ABOUT PEOPLE

Regulatory affairs

Catherine Brunskill, MRPharmS, has been appointed managing editor at Regulatory Affairs Journals Ltd. She has been succeeded as editor of *The Regulatory Affairs Journal (Pharma)* and *The Regulatory Affairs Journal (Devices)* by Victoria English. Margaret Cone, MRPharmS, has been appointed to the editorial board of *The Regulatory Affairs Jour-*

nal (Pharma). She is director of regulatory science at CMR International's institute for regulatory science.

East Staffordshire PCT

John Carr, FRPharmS, has been appointed chairman of the professional executive committee of East Staffordshire Primary Care Trust. Mr Carr is a former member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Council.

RESOURCES

Epilepsy fact sheets

A range of three fact sheets for women with epilepsy, entitled "With women in mind", has been launched by Epilepsy Action. The fact sheets, which cover issues in adolescence, pregnancy and the menopause, are available free of charge and can be ordered by calling 0808 800 5050.

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@cabl.org).

- Copyright © 2003 by *The Pharmaceutical Journal*. All reproduction, including photocopying, rights reserved. Average circulation, January to December 2001, 47,900: UK 42,752, overseas 5,148. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

- Published by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Printed in Great Britain by Polestar Colchester Ltd, a member of the Polestar Group. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

