

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Eccoxolac capsules

Eccoxolac (etodolac) capsules have been launched (Viatrix Pharmaceuticals); net price, 300mg 60 £8.75.

Neurontin titration pack

Pfizer is launching a Neurontin (gabapentin) titration pack (40 × 300mg capsules, 10 × 600mg tablets), net price per pack £31.80.

Atracurium injection

Atracurium injection has been launched (Phoenix Pharma-Hameln Pharmaceuticals); net price, 10mg/ml 5 × 2.5ml ampoules £8.50, 10mg/ml 5 × 5ml ampoules £15.

Fluconazole capsules

Fluconazole capsules have been launched (Mayne Pharma); net price, 50mg 7 £15.87, 150mg 1 £6.76, 200mg 7 £63.10.

COUNTER MEDICINES

Gammaderm Cream

Gammaderm cream (evening primrose oil 20 per cent) has been launched by Linderma for chronic and acute dry skin conditions. It is available in two sizes 50g (retail price, £4.99, NHS price, £2.83) and 250g (retail price, £14.45, NHS price, £8.20). Legal category: general sale list medicine.



Oilatium cream

Oilatium (light liquid paraffin and white soft paraffin) cream has been launched in a 500ml pump pack (Stiefel Laboratories). Recommended retail price, £9.95. Legal category: general sale list medicine.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Filair inhaler

Filair (beclometasone) 100µg inhaler is being discontinued from the Alpha range. The product will continue to be manufactured by 3M Health Care.

Expulin

Expulin Dry Cough is being discontinued by Shire Pharmaceuticals. Only Expulin Children's Cough remains available in the UK.

RECALLED PRODUCTS

Cetraben emollient cream

The following batch of Cetraben emollient cream 500g pump-dispenser has been recalled as a precautionary measure (Sankyo Pharma UK).

Batch number	Expiry date	Pack size
507	January 2006	500g

This is because the preservative content is out of specification. The stability of the product remains unaffected. Recipients of this batch are requested to embargo any remaining stock and make arrangements for return and replacement via their wholesaler. Further information can be obtained by telephoning Sankyo Pharma on 01494 766866.

Phenylephrine Hydrochloride Minims

The following batch of Phenylephrine Hydrochloride Minims 2.5% has been recalled as a precautionary measure (Chauvin Pharmaceuticals).

Batch number	Expiry date	Pack size	First distributed
2534	January 2004	20	December 2002

This is because a small number of complaints have been received regarding leaking Minims. Recipients are asked to quarantine any remaining stock and contact either their supplier or Chauvin Pharmaceuticals in order to make arrangements for return and replacement. Further information can be obtained by contacting Chauvin Pharmaceuticals on 020 8781 2800.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kemadrin injection

Auden Mckenzie has acquired Kemadrin (procyclidine hydrochloride) injection from GlaxoSmith-Kline. Further information from Auden Mckenzie (tel 020 8900 2122, fax 020 8903 9620, email info@audenmckenzie.com).

Capozide tablet change

Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals has changed the shape of Capozide (captopril and hydrochlorothiazide) tablets from round to oval.

NCSO endorsements

The Department of Health and the National Assembly for Wales have agreed to allow "No cheaper stock obtainable" (NCSO) endorsements for the following items for April prescriptions: ketoprofen 100mg capsules, morphine sulphate 30mg suppositories.

FUTURE EVENTS

PM Society

Pharmaceutical Marketing Society question time, "Die another day, who is calling the shots?", Reform Club, Pall Mall, London SW1, 8 May, 6.30pm for 7pm. Annual general meeting 6pm. Details from Vivien Bennett (tel 01403 264898).

College of Pharmacy Practice

Third annual College of Pharmacy Practice Faculty of Prescribing and Medicines Management conference, on patient safety and risk assessment. Birmingham, 22 May. Details from Kirsty Jimmison (tel 01483 477402).

Procurement and distribution

Procurement and distribution interest group of the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists meeting, Hilton hotel, Coventry, 4 June. Details from Simon Riley (tel 01752 763401).

AWARDS

GHP/Baxter Award 2003

A team from the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, have won the 2003 Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists/Baxter Healthcare Medication Delivery Award. The award was made to a team comprising Alison Beaney, regional quality assurance specialist, Anne Black, quality assurance pharmacist, and Clare Dobson, at the time a pharmacy student and now a preregistration trainee, for their work on the development of a risk assessment tool to improve the safety of intravenous preparations.

ABOUT PEOPLE

Nick Barber sabbatical

Professor Nick Barber, head of the department of practice and policy at the School of Pharmacy, University of London, is taking sabbatical leave for a year from 1 May 2003. He will spend six months at the Picker Institute, Oxford, studying the prescriber-patient relationship. During his absence, the department will be led by Dr Soraya Dhillon, director of taught postgraduate studies.

CORRECTIONS

Medication errors conference

The e-mail address for the medication errors conference mentioned last week (p543) should have been info@ecri.org.uk.

Science Chairman

Professor Ruth Duncan, who is to be Science Chairman for the 2004 British Pharmaceutical Conference, was described last week (p595) as chairman of the UK and Ireland Controlled Release Society. She is a former chairman. The current UKICRS chairman is Professor Duncan Craig (Queen's University Belfast).

Nephropathy trial

A quote in a news item on 19 April (p538) may have led readers to believe that researchers had compared an angiotensin-II receptor antagonist with an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor. In fact, the study compared irbesartan (an angiotensin-II receptor antagonist) with amlodipine (a calcium channel blocker). The quote: "Our trial thus suggests angiotensin-receptor blockers and angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors may have different effects in these patients" followed a discussion about previous trials by the authors of the reported article.

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