

RECALLED PRODUCTS

Sodium chloride intravenous infusion

The following batches of sodium chloride 0.9 per cent intravenous infusion BP are being recalled because a small number of bags have been reported to contain white particles (Baxter Healthcare).

Batch Number	Expiry date	Pack size	First distributed
03F19TF	May 2006	1 Litre	4 July 2003
03F19TFA	May 2006	1 Litre	4 July 2003

Any remaining product of these batches should be quarantined. Baxter is contacting customers to arrange for credit or replacement. For further information contact Baxter Healthcare customer services on 01635 206060 or 01635 206161.

Eprex pre-filled syringes

Batches of the following strengths of Eprex (epoetin alfa) solution for injection pre-filled syringes manufactured during 2002 have been recalled because of low level contaminants arising from the rubber stoppers (Janssen-Cilag).

Strength	Batch number
1,000 units/0.5ml	All batches beginning "02"
2,000 units/0.5ml	All batches beginning "02"
3,000 units/0.3ml	All batches beginning "02"
4,000 units/0.4ml	All batches beginning "02"
10,000 units/ml	All batches beginning "02"

The company says that there is no evidence of any health risks. Any remaining stock should be quarantined. Janssen-Cilag will be contacting customers to arrange for return or replacement. Further information can be obtained from Janssen-Cilag customer services on 0800 333001. This recall also applies to some strengths of parallel imports with the same batch numbers from PIE Pharmaceuticals, Concept Medical, Chemlines and Danfleet International.

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Prednisolone tablets

Alpharma has launched prednisolone enteric-coated tablets; net price, 5mg 100 £1.20.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Fucidin gel

Fucidin (fusidic acid 2 per cent) gel is being discontinued (Leo pharmaceuticals). The company anticipates that the product will be unavailable after October. Fucidin ointment and Fucidin cream remain available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Loestrin 30 tablets

Pfizer has announced that Loestrin 30 (norethisterone acetate 1.5mg and ethinylestradiol 30µg) tablets may now be a different shade of green than before because of a change in the colouring of excipients.

ABOUT PEOPLE

Moss trainee of the year

Vishal Patel was this year's Moss Pharmacy preregistration trainee of the year. Mr Patel, who trained at the Walsall branch, was presented his award by Steve Duncan, managing director of Moss Pharmacy. Mr

Patel has taken up a position as a relief manager with Moss.

FUTURE EVENTS

Care of the elderly

United Kingdom Clinical Pharmacy Association care of the elderly group study day on "Wound care". Edinburgh First conference centre, Edinburgh University, 2 October. Cost £95 for members, £150 for non-members. Details from Pat Kennedy on 0116 277 6999 (e-mail admin@ukcpa.org).

Herbal products

Association of the European Self-medication Industry (AESGP) conference on "The future of herbal (medicinal) products and food supplements". Renaissance Brussels Hotel, Brussels, 7-8 October. Registration fee €500. Accommodation is available at additional cost. Details and registration form available at [www.aesgp.be](http://www.aesgp.be).

Pharmaceutical marketing

Pharmaceutical Marketing Society reception and lunch, House of Commons, London, 17 October. Cost £94, to include a three-course lunch with wine. Speaker will be Kevin Barron, MP, chairman of the All Party Pharmaceutical Industry Group. Details from Vivien Bennett on 01403 264898 (website [www.pmsociety.org.uk](http://www.pmsociety.org.uk)).

McParlands Pharmacy charity cup



Community pharmacists and pharmacy assistants from McParland Pharmacies in Berkshire raised around £1,500 for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children by holding a charity five-a-side football tournament. Eight teams took part. Pictured (left to right) are Sunny Nagra, MRPharmS, Bobby Mehta, MRPharmS (event organiser) and Mandeep Matharu, MRPharmS, from the winning McParlands 1st VII team.

Tissue banks

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency seminar on "Tissue banks". Marriott Hotel, Marble Arch, London, 21 October. Cost £586.33. Details from Melanie Taylor on 020 7273 0393 (e-mail [conferences@mhra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:conferences@mhra.gsi.gov.uk)).

Surgical patients

United Kingdom Clinical Pharmacy Association surgery and theatres pharmacists group study day on "Evidence based care of surgical patients". Novotel Hotel, Birmingham, 29 October. Cost £95 for members, £150 for non-members. Details from Pat Kennedy on 0116 277 6999 (e-mail [admin@ukcpa.org](mailto:admin@ukcpa.org)).

Cardiovascular update

Coalition of Cardiovascular Organisations national conference, "Evidence based cardiology", Royal Pharmaceutical Society headquarters, London, 14-15 November. Full details from the conference secretariat (e-mail [cco@onetel.net.uk](mailto:cco@onetel.net.uk)).

REUNIONS

Strathclyde 1998

A five-year reunion for pharmacists who graduated from the Strathclyde school of pharmacy in 1998 is to be held at the Glasgow Hilton on 18 October. Cost is £45 including meal and ceilidh. Contact Iain Rivans (tel 01382 630490, e-mail [iain.rivans@tuht.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:iain.rivans@tuht.scot.nhs.uk)) by the end of August.

RESOURCES

Bladder problems

Incontact, a national charity for people with bladder and bowel problems, and RADAR, the disability network, have produced a "Just can't wait" card that people with incontinence can show to high street staff to gain rapid access to their toilets. Details from Incontact on 0870 770 3246 (website [www.incontact.org](http://www.incontact.org)).

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