

## NOTICE-BOARD

### PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

#### Lumigan eye-drops

Lumigan (bimatoprost) eye-drops are now available in a triple pack (Allergan); net price, 3x3ml £32.66.

### SPC CHANGES

#### Glitazones new indication

The licensed indications for Actos (pioglitazone, Takeda) and Avandia (rosiglitazone, GlaxoSmithKline) have been updated. They are now additionally indicated as oral monotherapy in type 2 diabetes patients, particularly overweight patients inadequately controlled by diet and exercise for whom metformin is inappropriate because of contraindications or intolerance. The indication for combination therapy with metformin has been re-worded to state "particularly in overweight patients". See SPCs for full details.

#### Begrivac instructions

The summary of product characteristics for Begrivac (formaldehyde-inactivated influenza virus) has been updated. The instructions for handling section now includes instructions for measuring a 0.25ml dose for children in a syringe with or without a mark. See SPC for instructions.

#### Movicol new indication

The licensed indications for Movicol (polyethylene glycol 3350) have been extended to include the treatment of faecal impaction in children from the age of 2 years. Dosage depends on age group and increases daily over a seven-day course. See SPC for full dosage information.

#### Travatan new indication

Travatan (travoprost) eye-drops (Alcon) are now licensed for first-line prescribing for decrease of elevated intraocular pressure in patients with ocular hypertension or open-angle glaucoma. See SPC.

### DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

#### Pilocarpine eye-drops

Pilocarpine eye-drops 3 per cent, 10ml, have been discontinued from the Alpharma range. The product remains available from Martindale.

### SUPPLY PROBLEMS

#### Amiloride and mianserin

The following Alpharma products are currently out of stock; amiloride 5mg x 28, mianserin tablets 10mg x 28, 20mg x 28, and 30mg x 28.

#### Synarel nasal spray

Synarel (nafarelin) nasal spray 4ml and 8ml are back in stock (Pfizer).

### COUNTER MEDICINES

#### NiQuitin CQ mint lozenges

GlaxoSmithKline has launched NiQuitin CQ mint lozenges (nicotine). Recommended retail price, 2mg or 4mg 36 £8.99, 72 £17.49. Legal category: general sale list.

#### Nicotinell products

Novartis has launched the following: Nicotinell liquorice coated gum (nicotine), recommended retail price, 2mg 24 £5.29, 2mg 96 £14.49, 4mg 24 £5.79, 4mg 96 £17.99, legal category: general sale list; Nicotinell extra strength mint lozenge (nicotine), recommended retail price 2mg 12 £3.49, 2mg 36 £8.69, 2mg 96 £18.59, legal category: general sale list.



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### June retail sales figures

The value of retail sales for June 2003, under the classification of pharmaceutical sales, was up seven points at 136. The retail sales value for the second quarter was up four points at 132.

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.

#### Banknote withdrawal

The Bank of England has announced that the older style £5 notes featuring George Stephenson are being withdrawn from circulation and will no longer be legal tender after 21 November. The new style £5 note, featuring Elizabeth Fry and enhanced security features, remains in circulation. Details at [www.bankofengland.co.uk](http://www.bankofengland.co.uk).

### RECALLED PRODUCTS

#### CoaguChek PT test strips

The following batch of CoaguChek PT test strips are being recalled because a manufacturing problem has caused a defect in the packaging of the strips that may give rise to falsely high international normalised ratio results (Roche Diagnostics).

Batch number	Pack size	Expiry	First distributed
583	12	August 2004	29 July 2003

Any remaining product should be quarantined. Roche suggest that pharmacists identify patients who have been supplied with these strips and advise them to repeat their blood testing with a new batch of strips. Customers can contact Roche for replacement strips on 01273 484 863.

### DRUG TARIFF UPDATES

#### 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 September prescriptions: indometacin 100mg suppositories, oxybutynin hydrochloride 2.5mg tablets, nitrofurantoin 25mg/5ml oral suspension, ketoprofen 50mg capsules.

### ABOUT PEOPLE

#### Medicines management

The United Kingdom Clinical Pharmacy Association's Merck Pharmaceuticals medicines management award has been won by Jill Holden, senior clinical pharmacist, Alison Dale, principal clinical pharmacist, and David Miller, chief pharmacist, at the Sunderland Royal Hospital for their project on "Medicines management in one year: implementation of patient-focused initiatives". The £1,500 prize will cover attendance at the American Society of Health-system Pharmacists mid-year meeting to be held in New Orleans, and the UKCPA autumn symposium in Blackpool.

#### NPPG award winners

The Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group has awarded its 2003 Mandeville Medicines research award of £3,000 to a team from the London School of Pharmacy and the Institute of Child Health, University College, London. The team, Dr Catherine Tuleu, Dr Paul Long, Dr Ian Wong, Judith Cope and Professor Sheila Haworth will carry out work to evaluate the safe use of an extemporaneous preparation of sildenafil for children with pulmonary hypertension. The NPPG research prize of £1,500 has been awarded to Dr Trevor Johnson, clinical lead pharmacist at Sheffield Children's Hospital, for his paper "Optimising the dosage regimen of betaine in homocystinuria."

### APPOINTMENTS

#### CoMedis

Peter Skinner has been appointed business director at CoMedis, a company that provides online transfer order and information services to pharmacists. Mr Skinner has held buying and marketing posts at various pharmacy companies including Boots The Chemists, Kingswood, Superdrug and UniChem.

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• **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](mailto:editor@pharmj.org.uk)).

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## FUTURE EVENTS

**Nutritional supplements**

National Association of Women Pharmacists meeting on "Use of nutritional supplements in the community", Quality Hotel, Cardiff, 29 September. Details from Hazel Baker on 029 2041 1841. *Note change of venue.*

**Psychiatry evening**

Yorkshire Pharmacists Group study evening entitled "Yorkshire pharmacists with an interest in psychia-

try", Becklin centre, St James University Hospital site, Leeds, 17 September. Buffet supper at 7pm. Meeting 7.30-9.30pm. Details from Jane Riley on 0113 305 5154 (e-mail [Jane.Riley@leedsmh.nhs.uk](mailto:Jane.Riley@leedsmh.nhs.uk)). *Note change of venue.*

**Clinicians and the national IT programme**

*British Journal of Healthcare Computing* autumn forum on "Clinicians and the national programme for IT". Metropole Hotel, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, 7

October. Cost £276.13. Further details from Teresa Jones on 01932 821723 (e-mail [events@bjhcltd.demon.co.uk](mailto:events@bjhcltd.demon.co.uk))

**Intestinal failure**

St Mark's Academic Institute study day on "Intestinal failure in adults". St Mark's Hospital, Harrow, Middlesex, 16 October. Cost £80, £40 for students. Details from St Mark's Academic Institute on 020 8235 4046 or 020 8235 4048 (e-mail [stmarks@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:stmarks@imperial.ac.uk)).

**Parenteral nutrition**

National Association of Women Pharmacists seminar on "Parenteral nutrition in community pharmacy", Aberdare Hall, Cardiff, 1 December. Details from Hazel Baker on 029 2041 1841.

**Medicines management**

*British Journal of Healthcare Computing* annual conference on "Medicines management in the 21st century", Metropole Hotel, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, 4 December. Cost £276.13, discount available for early bookings. Further information available from Teresa Jones on 01932 821723 (e-mail [events@bjhcltd.demon.co.uk](mailto:events@bjhcltd.demon.co.uk))

## EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The Journal* welcomes details of future events relevant to pharmacists, especially those organised by pharmacists or pharmaceutical organisations. There is no charge for insertion of an item but *The Journal* is unable to guarantee insertion on any given date. Items are usually only published once unless there is a change of date or venue. Information should reach *The Journal* by 1pm on the Tuesday before publication.

## RESOURCES

**Mental Health pack**

Primary Care Mental Health and Education has launched a mental health resource pack. Cost £25 (plus £2.50 postage) for resource pack and CD-ROM. See [www.primhe.org](http://www.primhe.org).

**Child protection**

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has launched a distance-learning child protection awareness programme for all staff working in health care. Cost £26.44. Contact EduCare on 01926 436 219, e-mail [info@debrus.co.uk](mailto:info@debrus.co.uk).

**Parkinson's disease**

The European Parkinson's Disease Association has launched a website that uses a board game analogy to provide patients, their families and carers with structured information and advice. See [www.parkinsonpoly.com](http://www.parkinsonpoly.com).

## CORRECTIONS

**Vertical transmission of HIV**

The antiretroviral therapy recommended to prevent vertical transmission of HIV is zidovudine, not azathioprine as stated in *The Journal*, (30 August, p273).

**Genus products**

Genus has told *The Journal* that Felotens (felodipine XL) tablets are in pack sizes of 30, not 28 as the company previously stated, and that tramadol is available as capsules, not tablets.

Advertisement

**Correction****Movicol**

The licensed indication for Movicol-Half (Macrogol 3350 and electrolytes) has been extended to include the treatment of faecal impaction in children from the age of two years (Norgine). This indication does not apply to Movicol (p318).