

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Forsteo injection

COMPOSITION: Teriparatide 250µg/ml.

PRESENTATION: 3ml solution for injection in a pre-filled pen.

CLASS: Active fragment of parathyroid hormone.

INDICATIONS: Treatment of established osteoporosis in postmenopausal women.

DOSAGE: 20µg once daily by subcutaneous injection. Maximum treatment period 18 months.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Pre-existing hypercalcaemia, severe renal impairment, metabolic bone disease, unexplained elevations in alkaline phosphatase levels, previous radiation therapy to the skeleton, pregnancy, lactation.

STORAGE: Store at 2–8°C at all times. The pen must be discarded 28 days after opening.

LEGAL CATEGORY: POM

NET PRICE: 1 x 3ml £271.88, 3 x 3ml £815.64.

CONTACT DETAILS: Eli Lilly & Co Ltd, tel 01256 315000.

The product is to be supplied direct to patients by the company through a nurse advisory service.



Avandamet tablets

GlaxoSmithKline has launched Avandamet (rosiglitazone maleate and metformin hydrochloride) tablets; net price, 1mg/500mg 112 £29.80, 2mg/500mg 112 £56.40.

SPC CHANGES

Lipostat shelf life

The shelf life for Lipostat (pravastatin sodium) tablets has been reduced from 36 to 24 months following new storage data (Bristol-Myers Squibb). See SPC.

Aprovel tablets

The summary of product characteristics for Aprovel (irbesartan) tablets has been updated (Bristol-Myers Squibb). It now states that the anti-hypertensive effect of irbesartan may be attenuated by non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. The undesirable effects section has been rearranged and reworded. Adverse events are grouped together by body system and the frequency of each adverse event reported has been defined. A recommendation to store the product in the original package has been added. See SPC.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Alphosyl products

Alphosyl cream 100g and Alphosyl lotion 250ml are being discontinued (GlaxoSmithKline). Limited supplies of these products for individual customer use can be obtained through the company's medical and consumer affairs department on 0500 888 878. Alphosyl "2 in 1" shampoo and Alphosyl HC cream remain available.

Sulfasalazine tablets

Sulfasalazine tablets 500mg x 500 are being discontinued from the Alpharma range. Meridian will continue to market the product.

Minihep ampoules

Minihep ampoules (heparin sodium 25,000 units/ml) are being discontinued (Leo Pharma). The company expects the product to be out of stock towards the end of December. Other unfractionated heparin products remain available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Retail sales figures

The Office for National Statistics has suspended the publication of retail sales indices during a review of the methodology and quality estimates for individual industries. The review of estimates is expected to report in early 2004.

APPOINTMENTS

Boots management

David Kneale, previously chief operating officer for Boots The Chemists has been appointed chief commercial officer. Paul Bateman, previously operations director, will now be responsible for human resources, logistics and manufacturing. Howard Dodd, chief financial officer is now additionally responsible for the property portfolio. Andy Smith, formerly board director for HR, and Ann Francke, formerly strategic marketing director, have left the company.

AWARDS

Health Foundation awards

The Health Foundation charity is seeking applicants for its "Leading practice through research" award. The award will enable a health care professional to undertake a research project of six months to two years that demonstrably improves the quality of patient care or the health of the population. Details at www.health.org.uk.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

To mark the end of the year *The Pharmaceutical Journal* is running a photographic competition. There are two categories: "A wintry scene" and "Pharmacy in the 21st century". The best entries in each category will be published in the issue of 20/27 December and the overall winning entry will be considered for use on the cover. The winner will receive a seasonal hamper and the runners-up gift vouchers.

Entries should be submitted as prints (approximately 120mm x 180mm) or high resolution digital images and should be accompanied by an entry form. Entry forms and conditions of entry can be obtained from Lyn McCulloch (e-mail lyn.mcculloch@pharmj.org.uk; tel 020 7572 2414) or can be downloaded from *PJ Online* at www.pjonline.com/xmas.

The closing date for entries is Monday 8 December.

FUTURE EVENTS

Respiratory study day

College of Pharmacy Practice's faculty of neonatal and paediatric pharmacy respiratory study day, Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital (Alder Hey) Education Centre, 18 November. Cost £25 for members, £85 for non-members. Details from the CPP on 024 7622 1359 (website www.colpharm.org.uk).

Adverse drug reactions

College of Pharmacy Practice in Scotland autumn event on "Adverse drug reaction reporting", Stirling Royal Infirmary, 20 November. Cost £45 for members, £65 for non-members. Details from the CPP on 024 7622 1359 (website www.colpharm.org.uk).

Drug delivery

United Kingdom and Ireland Controlled Release Society symposium on "Macromolecular drug delivery: big molecules, big problems", GSK House, Brentford, Middlesex, 13 January 2004. Cost £75 for members, £120 for non-members. Details from Jayne Lawrence on 020 7848 4808 (e-mail jayne.lawrence@kcl.ac.uk).

Clinical pharmacy

American College of Clinical Pharmacy, European Society of Clinical Pharmacy and French Society of Clinical Pharmacy joint international congress on clinical pharmacy entitled "Optimizing outcomes in pharmacotherapy", Paris, 28–30 April 2004. Cost €450–650 for members (depending on date of registration), €550–750 for non-members. Details at www.escp.nl or www.accp.com.

CORRECTIONS

Duncan Craig

Professor Duncan Craig is co-editor of the *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology*, not the editor as stated in last week's *Journal* (p627). Professor Craig holds the position jointly with Professor David Jones at the School of Pharmacy, Queen's University, Belfast.

Radiopharmacy workshop

The e-mail address for Paul Maltby, contact for the United Kingdom Radiopharmacy Group annual workshop, has been changed to paul.maltby@rlbuht.nhs.uk (*PJ*, 1 November, p609).

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