

SPC CHANGES

**Nu Seals**

The summaries of product characteristics for Nu Seals 75 and Nu Seals 300 (aspirin 75mg and 300mg) have been amended (Alliance Pharmaceuticals). They now state: "Do not give to children aged under 16 years, unless specifically indicated (eg, for Kawasaki's disease)."

COUNTER MEDICINES

**GTN spray**

PLIVA Pharma has launched glyceryl trinitrate spray 400µg per dose; net price, 200-dose pump spray, £3.13. Legal category: pharmacy medicine.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

**Adgyn and Dermestril**

The following hormone replacement products are being discontinued and supply is expected to cease at the end of the year (Strakan): Adgyn Estro 28-tablet pack; Adgyn Combi 28-tablet pack; Adgyn Medro 14- and 28-tablet packs; Dermestril 25µg patch; Dermestril Septem 50µg and 75µg patch.

**Brasivol Medium**

Brasivol Medium No.2 (aluminium oxide 52 per cent) has been discontinued (Stiefel Laboratories).

**Eli Lilly products**

Eli Lilly is discontinuing the following ranges from 31 December. Kefzol (cefazolin), Kefadol (cefamandole), Doloxene (dextropropoxyphene napsilate), Cefuroxime 250mg vials, and Kefadim (ceftazidime) 2g/100ml and 500mg/10ml vials are also being discontinued.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Parlodel imprint**

Novartis says that the imprint on Parlodel (bromocriptine) 5mg capsules, which currently reads "Parlodel 5" in red, will be replaced by the red imprint "PS". The red imprint "Parlodel 10" will no longer be applied to the 10mg capsules. Composition of these products is unaffected.

**Sandostatin presentation**

Sandostatin LAR (octreotide) 10mg, 20mg and 30mg injections will come with a pre-filled glass syringe of diluent when current stock is depleted, expected to be in mid-December (Novartis). The new user information leaflet has been adjusted accordingly.

**Drug tariff correction**

The Prescription Pricing Authority says that the 10g tube of 5 per cent aciclovir cream was erroneously deleted from the December Drug Tariff for England and Wales. The entry should read:

Aciclovir Cream BP 5% w/w  
2g 301p A  
10g 905p A

ABOUT PEOPLE

**Lincolnshire Partnership Trust**

Susan Lugg, MRPharmS, has been appointed chief pharmacist at Lincolnshire Partnership Trust, which covers mental health and social care services in the county. Mrs Lugg was formerly senior pharmacist at Doncaster and South Humber Healthcare Trust.

**Primecare**

John Jolley, FRPharmS, has been appointed head of medicines management at Primecare, a provider of 24-hour health care support services. Mr Jolley, a pharmaceutical consultant and past-chairman of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Industrial Pharmacists Group, will be responsible for medicines management, standards for drug storage and delivery and relevant staff training.

CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

**Eli Lilly**

Eli Lilly medical information, care-line and supplier information will close at noon on 24 December and reopen on 5 January 2004. On 29-31 December and 2 January 2004 the business will be open from 10am-2pm (tel 01256 315999). Outside these times an out-of-hours service for emergency calls will be available (tel 01256 315000).

**Shire Pharmaceuticals**

Shire's offices will be closed from noon on 24 December until 5 January 2004, with only emergency cover available. Deliveries will recommence the week beginning 5 January 2004. Orders should be placed before noon on 18 December to guarantee delivery before Christmas.

**The Specials Laboratory**

The Specials Laboratory will be closed from 1pm on 24 December to 8.30am on 29 December and from 3pm on 31 December to 8.30am on 2 January 2004. Messages can be left on 01661 831811 and will be dealt with upon return to business. Refrigerated lines must be

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](http://www.pjonline.com/xmas).

The closing date for entries is Monday 8 December.

ordered by 19 December for delivery before Christmas and by 10am on 29 December for delivery before New Year.

**Solvay Healthcare**

Solvay Healthcare customer services and medical information will be closed on 24 December from 1pm, and on 25-26 December and 1 January 2004. Medical information will also be closed on 2 January. For urgent out-of-hours medical enquiries contact 023 8046 7000.

BOGUS E-MAIL

As a result of a bogus e-mail circulating since 1999, some pharmacists are receiving enquiries from customers about progesterex, described in the e-mail as a sterilisation drug used in cases of date rape. Pharmacists should be aware that in searches of world wide medical databases and information resources the Royal Pharmaceutical Society has found no medicine (either for human or veterinary use) with either the brand or generic name of progesterex.

FUTURE EVENTS

**Pharmacy practice**

Health Services Research and Pharmacy Practice conference, King's College, London, 29-30 March 2004. Cost £220 (discounts for early booking and doctoral students). Abstracts are invited for submission, deadline 12 December. Details at [www.hsrrp.org.uk](http://www.hsrrp.org.uk). Contact Vicky Sweetlove on 020 7753 5856 (e-mail vicky.sweetlove@ulsop.ac.uk).

**Reimbursement**

Management Forum conference on "Reimbursement of generic medicine in the UK and Europe", Harrington Hall Hotel, London, 27 January. Cost £599.25. Details on 01483 570099 (e-mail [info@management-forum.co.uk](mailto:info@management-forum.co.uk)).

CORRECTIONS

**Apprenticeship awards**

The large employer category in the Scottish Modern Apprenticeship awards was won by the acute trust, Tayside University Hospitals, not Tayside Primary Care Trust as previously stated (*PJ*, 22 November, p707).

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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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• **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 (£50) 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@cabi.org](mailto:rpsgb@cabi.org)).

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