

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Azathioprine

Azathioprine tablets 25mg are now available from Alpharma; net price, 28 £9.28.

Soluble paracetamol

Paracetamol soluble tablets 500mg are now available from Almus Pharmaceuticals; net price, 100 £4.70.



DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Efexor tablets

Efexor (venlafaxine) immediate release tablets 50mg are being discontinued (Wyeth). The company expects stock to be exhausted by July. Other strengths and presentations of Efexor and Efexor XL remain available. For enquiries about existing orders contact Wyeth customer services on 0845 850 5544. For medical information contact 01628 415330.

Dobutrex solution

Dobutrex (dobutamine) solution 250mg/20ml will be discontinued from 1 April (Lilly).

Lamprene

Commercial supply of Lamprene (clofazimine) is being discontinued (Alliance Pharmaceuticals). The company expects stocks to be exhausted in September. Lamprene manufactured by Novartis will remain available on a non-commercial basis from the World Health Organization for the treatment of leprosy.

SPC CHANGES

Zometa formulation

From 8 March Zometa (zoledronic acid) will be supplied as 4mg/5ml concentrate for solution for infusion instead of a powder and solvent (Novartis). The concentrate must be further diluted with 100ml sterile 0.9 per cent w/v sodium chloride or 5 per cent w/v glucose solution and given as a single 15-minute intravenous infusion as directed by the new SPC. The price of the product is unaffected by this change.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pfizer relocation

Pfizer Consumer Healthcare will be relocating to Walton-on-the-Hill, Surrey on 8 March. From this date the new contact details will be: Pfizer Consumer Healthcare, Walton Oaks, Dorking Road, Walton-on-the-Hill, Surrey KT20

7NS. Tel 01304 616161, fax 01304 656221.

UKCPA symposium

The deadline for submitting papers for the UKCPA spring symposium (PJ, 31 January, p117) has been extended to 8 March. The closing date for registration is 16 April.

Cidomycin responsibility

Responsibility for Cidomycin (gentamicin) 80mg ampoules and vials has been transferred from Aventis to Beacon Pharmaceuticals. Future orders should be placed via Distriphar (tel 0870 513 3347, fax 0870 513 3329). The ampoules and vials will now come in packs of five; net price £7.40. Outstanding orders on the Aventis system will be cancelled when current stock is exhausted.

SUPPLY ISSUES

Hypurin Insulin

CP Pharmaceuticals says that Hypurin Porcine 3ml cartridges are currently out of stock. Further stock is expected during the first few weeks of March. Hypurin Porcine 1.5ml cartridges and 10ml vials remain available. The Hypurin Bovine insulin 3ml cartridge range is not affected. Details from CP Pharmaceuticals customer services department on 01978 661261.

ABOUT PEOPLE

Faculty of public health

Miriam Armstrong, chief executive of PharmacyHealthLink, has been invited to become a member of the faculty of public health, because of her longstanding contribution to public health.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

The following candidates have successfully passed the supplementary prescribing course at Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen

J. W. Binnie, C. J. Blythe, D. A. Dunn, M. S. Elfellah, C. Y. Forte, A. M. Hair, M. P. Jackson, G. A. Jardine, C. F. Johnson, E. M. McDonald, S. McGlynn, E. M. MacLean, M. L. Melvin, A. M. Milne, F. Reid, G. L. M. Romanes, C. C. Shimmins.

DRUG TARIFF UPDATES

Scottish tariff shortages

The Scottish Pharmaceutical General Council has announced that endorsements will be allowed for February for the following items: diclofenac tablets 25mg and 50mg, doxazosin tablets 1mg, 2mg and 4mg, pindolol tablets 5mg, prednisolone enteric coated tablets 5mg.