

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Reyataz capsules

COMPOSITION: Atazanavir 100mg, 150mg or 200mg (corresponding to 113.9mg, 170.8mg or 227.8mg of atazanavir sulphate)
PRESENTATION: Hard capsules.
ACTION: Protease inhibitor.
INDICATION: Treatment of HIV-1 infected, antiretroviral treatment experienced adults, in combination with other antiretroviral products.

DOSAGE: 300mg once daily taken with ritonavir 100mg once daily and with food. If atazanavir with ritonavir is co-administered with didanosine, it is recommended that didanosine be taken two hours after the other two drugs.
CAUTIONS: Therapy should be initiated by a doctor experienced in the management of HIV infection. Atazanavir should be used with caution in patients with mild hepatic insufficiency.
CONTRAINDICATIONS: Moderate

to severe hepatic insufficiency. Should not be used in combination with rifampicin, St John's wort or products that are substrates of CYP3A4 and have narrow therapeutic windows.
SIDE EFFECTS: Adverse events with a possible relationship to atazanavir regimens include nausea, headache and jaundice. See SPC.
LEGAL CATEGORY: POM.
NET PRICE: 100mg 60 £332.31, 150mg 60 £332.31, 200mg 60 £352.67.



CONTACT DETAILS: Bristol-Myers Squibb, Bristol-Myers Squibb House, Staines Road, Hounslow TW3 3JA.

Welcome to "The Big Easy" — FIP's 64th congress in New Orleans

The International Pharmaceutical Federation will hold its 64th congress from 4 to 9 September in New Orleans, Louisiana. It is being hosted jointly by FIP, the American Pharmacists Association, the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists. The congress theme is "The patient and the pharmacist — the heart of the new health care team".

Symposia

The board of pharmaceutical sciences is running two symposia:

- Post-marketing innovation in drug development
- Osteoporosis and fractures: diagnosis, therapies and pharmacoepidemiology

The board of pharmaceutical practice is running five symposia:

- New drug therapies and the impact on the patient/pharmacist partnership
- The patient and the pharmacist in different health care systems
- Patients and pharmacists working with new technologies
- The increasingly knowledgeable patient
- The changing role of the pharmacist in medicines management

There will also be a special symposium entitled "Responding to the HIV/AIDS crisis in resource-limited settings: the role of pharmacy and pharmacists in improving access to and use of medicines", and a joint symposium on "Getting medicines right for children".

Community pharmacy section

The community pharmacy section has organised a continuing professional development programme (separate registration), aimed at community pharmacists, educators and policy-makers, and entitled "How to implement a professional service that is



being paid". It will also host two symposia:

- Big isn't all bad; chain pharmacies in focus: are chain pharmacies really the bad guys that some people say they are?
- Counterfeit medicines — a global problem: the effects on individuals' health, economics and pharmacies

Hospital and industrial pharmacy sections

The hospital pharmacy section has symposia on:

- Drug therapy management of the oncology patient
- New technologies in hospital pharmacy
- The new hospital pharmacist

The industrial pharmacy section has symposia on:

- International harmonisation — clinical trials
- Post-marketing innovation in drug development

The two sections will jointly host symposia on:

- Direct-to-consumer advertising
- Paediatric medicines

Other sections

There will be meetings of the academic pharmacy, administrative pharmacy, clinical biology, laboratories and medicines control services, medicinal and aromatic plants, military and emergency pharmacy, and pharmacy information sections.

Congress fees

Until 1 May, registration fees are as follows:

- FIP members €500, non-members €800, students and recent graduates €200
- After 1 May and before 1 August, the fees increase: members €600, non-members €900, students and recent graduates €250
- After 1 August, registration will only be available on site, when fees will be €950 for members and non-members, and €300 for students and recent graduates

Accompanying persons (maximum two per participant) pay €200 whatever the time of booking. In addition, day cards will be available on site at €275.

Accommodation and tours

Congress participants wishing to stay in the Hyatt Regency New Orleans hotel, where the congress will take place, are advised to reserve accommodation before 1 August, otherwise it cannot be guaranteed.

A range of pre- and post-congress tours will be available.

Further information

Registration forms and copies of the programme are available from FIP Congresses and Conferences, PO Box 84200, 2508 AE The Hague, The Netherlands (tel +31 70 302 1982; fax +31 70 302 1998, e-mail congress@fip.org)

The FIP website at www.fip.org gives detailed, up-to-date information on the congress and other matters. Electronic registration is available at www.fip.org/neworleans/registration.

Nexium IV

Nexium (esomeprazole) 40mg powder for solution for injection or infusion has been launched (AstraZeneca). For a 40mg dose the reconstituted solution should be given as an intravenous injection over at least three minutes, or as an intravenous infusion over 10 to 30 minutes. For a 20mg dose, half of the reconstituted solution should be used as above. Net price, 1 vial £5.21. Legal category: POM

NeoRecormon

NeoRecormon (epoetin beta) is now additionally available as 30,000 international units per pre-filled syringe. For the treatment of anaemia in patients with multiple myeloma, low-grade Hodgkin's lymphoma or chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, the weekly dose can now be given as one single injection (Roche). See SPC. Net price, 4 syringes £1005.62. Legal category: POM

Co-codamol tablets

Co-codamol (paracetamol and codeine) tablets 30/500mg are now available from Almus Pharmaceuticals; net price, 100 £7.26.

Indapamide tablets

Indapamide tablets 2.5mg x 30 are now available from Alpharma; net price, £3.02.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Maalox Plus tablets

Maalox Plus (aluminium hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide and simeticone) tablets packs of 10 have been discontinued (Aventis). Any outstanding back orders will be cancelled. Maalox Plus tablets 50, Maalox Plus suspension 500ml and Maalox suspension 500ml remain available. Details from Aventis customer services on 0870 5133347.

Froben suppositories

Froben (flurbiprofen) suppositories will be discontinued once current stock is exhausted (Abbott Laboratories).

Renagel capsules

Renagel (sevelamer) capsules 403mg are being discontinued from April (Genzyme). Renagel 800mg tablets remain available.

SPC CHANGES**Subutex**

The summary of product characteristics for Subutex (buprenorphine) now states that patients receiving buprenorphine with ketoconazole should be closely monitored and the dose of buprenorphine should be halved when starting treatment with ketoconazole (Schering-Plough). Further titration of Subutex should be made as clinically indicated. Similar dose-reduction should be considered when initiating treatment with other inhibitors of CYP3A4. Use of enzyme inducers may increase the metabolism of buprenorphine and the dose of buprenorphine should be increased appropriately if

patients complain of decreased benefit of buprenorphine or if there is a re-emergence of craving for illicit drugs. See SPC.

COUNTER PRODUCTS**Cuprofen Plus**

Cuprofen Plus (ibuprofen 200mg and codeine phosphate 12.8mg) caplets have been launched (SSL International). Recommended retail price, 12 £2.39, 24 £4.39. Legal category: P

**SUPPLY ISSUES****Diethylstilbestrol tablets**

Diethylstilbestrol (stilboestrol) tablets 1mg and 5mg are back in stock (APS Berk). Orders can be placed on 0800 590502.

Germoloids

Germoloids (lidocaine and zinc oxide) cream is now available in a 55g tube, recommended retail price £5.29, legal category: P (Bayer). Germoloids Duo Pack has also been launched, containing Germoloids suppositories x 12 and Germoloids ointment 15ml, recommended retail price £5.49, legal category: P

ANNOUNCEMENTS**Aspirin labels**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has issued a reminder that after 1 April it will be illegal to sell or supply any aspirin product not bearing the new statutory warning "Do not give to children aged under 16 years, unless on the advice of a doctor" (*PJ*, 4 October 2003, p477).

REUNIONS**Welsh pharmacy school**

Welsh School of Pharmacy past students ball, Marriott Hotel, Cardiff, 24 April, cost £33. Past versus present rugby match on the

same day at the University pitches, Pontcanna. Closing date 5 April. Details from Dai John on 029 2087 5804 (e-mail johndn@cf.ac.uk).

DRUG TARIFF UPDATES**Scottish tariff shortages**

The Scottish Pharmaceutical General Council has announced that endorsements will be allowed for Pindolol tablets 5mg for March.

CORRECTIONS**'Veterinary pharmacy'**

Steven Kayne and Michael Jepson are the editors of 'Veterinary pharmacy' and not the sole authors, as suggested in a Society news item last week (p333).

Complaints

The e-mail address for complaints about the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, published in last week's issue (p318), was incorrect. The correct address is complaintsaboutsociety@rpsgb.org.

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