

## MEDICAL DEVICE ALERT

### Reusable nebulisers and legionella

The potential risk of transmission of legionella bacteria owing to poor drying after cleaning of reusable nebulisers has been highlighted in a medical device alert issued by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. Medical, nursing and purchasing staff are advised to follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and thorough drying of the nebulisers. Users must ensure that no droplets of water remain in the nebuliser before reuse, and nebulisers designated as single-use should never be reused. Further details at [www.mhra.gov.uk](http://www.mhra.gov.uk).

## PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

### Dacarbazine injection

Dacarbazine injection is now available from Pliva Pharma; net price 1 vial, 100mg £5.10, 200mg £7.23.

### Warfarin tablets

Warfarin tablets are now available from Almus Pharmaceuticals; net price, 1mg 28 £1.35, 3mg 28 £1.53, 5mg 28 £1.70.



## SPC CHANGES

### Risperdal

Risperdal (risperidone) is now additionally licensed for the treatment of mania in bipolar disorder (Janssen-Cilag). The summary of product characteristics states that for this indication in adults risperidone should be administered on a once daily schedule, starting with 2mg. Dosage adjustments, if indicated, should occur at intervals of not less than 24 hours and in dosage increments of 1mg per day. A dosing range between 1mg and 6mg per day is recommended. The continued use of risperidone must be evaluated and justified on an ongoing basis. For elderly patients and patients with renal or liver disease a starting dose of 0.5mg twice daily is recommended, and can be adjusted with 0.5mg increments to 1mg or 2mg twice daily. The SPC states that risperidone should be used with caution in patients with renal or liver disease, and it is not recommended to co-administer risperidone with carbamazepine in

bipolar patients until further experience is gained. See SPC.

### Neurontin

The summary of product characteristics for Neurontin (gabapentin) has been updated (Parke-Davis). It now states that when being used to treat neuropathic pain, any dose reduction, discontinuation or substitution with an alternative medicine should be done gradually over a minimum of one week. Adverse events following abrupt discontinuation of gabapentin include anxiety, insomnia, nausea, pain and sweating. Additional post-marketing adverse events are now listed. See SPC.

### Yasmin shelf life

The shelf life for Yasmin (drospirenone and ethinylestradiol) has been increased to three years (Schering Health Care).

## DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

### Expulin linctus

Expulin Children's Cough Linctus (chlorphenamine, menthol and pholcodeine) 100ml sugar free has been discontinued (Shire).

## PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

### Epanutin livery

Epanutin (phenytoin sodium) capsules 25mg, 50mg and 100mg, formerly packaged under Parke-Davis livery, will change to standard Pfizer livery with immediate effect. The price remains unchanged.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UKCPA symposium

Submissions for oral presentations and posters are invited for the United Kingdom Clinical Pharmacy Association autumn symposium to be held in Blackpool on 19–21 November. Deadline for submissions 19 July.

## Preregistration trainee project winners



Pictured are Fatema Hassan (left) and Grace Foley, preregistration trainees at the Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust, two winners of the London Pharmacy Education and Training preregistration project awards. Ms Hassan and Ms Foley were awarded first prize for their project poster presentations, as was Karen Topping, preregistration trainee at Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust. Winners of the oral presentations were Lucy Thomas from the Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust and Melissa Teh from Chase Farm Hospital in north London. The winning projects ranged from an audit of antibiotic treatment of pneumonia to pharmacists transcribing discharge prescriptions.

Details from Marie Matthews on 0116 277 6999 or at [www.ukcpa.org](http://www.ukcpa.org).

## RESOURCES

### Neuroendocrine tumours

A leaflet designed to help patients with neuroendocrine tumours to relax is now available from Ipsen as part of the "living with a neuroendocrine tumour" patient information pack. The leaflet includes tips for avoiding stress and an overview of complementary therapies. The pack, which includes a video, contact card and booklets for patients and carers is available free on 01753 627777 (e-mail [medical.information.uk@ipсен.com](mailto:medical.information.uk@ipсен.com)).



"Inter-professional education — direction and development", Fairbairn House, Leeds, 23 June. Cost members £99, non-members £155. Details from Marie Matthews on 0116 277 6999 or at [www.ukcpa.org](http://www.ukcpa.org).

### Nurse prescribers

Pharmaceutical Marketing Society marketing module entitled "Nurses — the future influencers and prescribers", Innovex, Bracknell, Berkshire, 30 June, 7pm. Cost members £47, non-members £94. Details from Vivien Bennett on 01403 264898 (e-mail [vivien@pmsociety.org.uk](mailto:vivien@pmsociety.org.uk)) or at [www.pmsociety.org.uk](http://www.pmsociety.org.uk).

### DURG meeting

Drug Utilisation Research Group (UK and Ireland) mid-year meeting entitled "New prescribers, new partnerships", School of Pharmacy, University of London, 8 July. Cost members, clinicians and academics £65, industry delegates and NHS senior management £95. Details from Vicky Sweetlove on 020 7753 5856 (e-mail [vicky.sweetlove@ams1.ulsop.ac.uk](mailto:vicky.sweetlove@ams1.ulsop.ac.uk)).

### Clinical nutrition

University of Leeds school of continuing education multidisciplinary course in human clinical nutrition, St James's Hospital, Leeds, 7–10 September. Cost NHS employees £295, others £525. Details from Carol Would on 0113 343 3232 (e-mail [c.would@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:c.would@leeds.ac.uk)).

## FUTURE EVENTS

### Inter-professional education

United Kingdom Clinical Pharmacy Association Education and Training Group study day on