

DRUG ALERT

Counterfeit Cialis tablets 20mg

Counterfeit Cialis (tadalafil) tablets bearing the following batch numbers are being recalled following discovery of counterfeit material in the UK supply chain.

Batch number	Expiry date	Pack size	First distributed
A031410	06/2006	4 tablets	Not known
A041410	Not known	Not known	Not known

Recipients of these batches should contact Lilly ICOS on 0800 0853847. No batches manufactured and distributed by Lilly ICOS are affected. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency says that initial tests do not indicate a risk to patients. Details at www.mhra.gov.uk.

NEW MEDICINES

Vesicare

COMPOSITION: Solifenacin succinate.

PRESENTATION: Film-coated tablets.

CLASS: Urinary antispasmodic.

INDICATIONS: Symptomatic treatment of urge incontinence and/or increased urinary frequency and urgency as may occur in patients with overactive bladder syndrome.

DOSAGE: 5mg daily. May be increased to 10mg daily if needed.

MAJOR PRECAUTIONS: Patients with severe renal impairment or moderate hepatic impairment should be treated with caution and receive no more than 5mg once daily. The maximum dose of Vesicare should be limited to 5mg in patients treated simultaneously with ketoconazole or other potent CYP3A4 inhibitors.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Breast-feeding, urinary retention, severe gastrointestinal conditions, myasthenia gravis or narrow angle glaucoma and patients at risk for these conditions. Haemodialysis, severe hepatic impairment, patients with severe renal impairment or moderate hepatic impairment who are on treatment with a potent CYP3A4 inhibitor.

SIDE EFFECTS: Common (>1/100, <1/10) constipation, nausea, dyspepsia, abdominal pain, blurred vision.

LEGAL CATEGORY: POM.

NET PRICE: 5mg 30 £29.70, 10mg 30 £38.61.

CONTACT DETAILS: Yamanouchi Pharma, Yamanouchi House, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6RA (tel 01932 342291).

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Lyflex

Lyflex (baclofen) 5mg/5ml sugar-free oral solution will be available from Chemidex from 1

September. Net price, 300ml £7.95. Orders for Lyflex should be placed with Farillon (tel 01708 379000, fax 01708 376554).

Pergolide

Pergolide tablets are now available from Alpharma; net price, 250µg 100 £46.45, 1mg 100 £170.04.

Pravastatin

Pravastatin tablets are now available from Sandoz; net price, 10mg 28 £16.17, 20mg 28 £29.68, 40mg 28 £29.68.

SPC CHANGES

Perfalgan

Perfalgan (paracetamol) solution for infusion is now licensed for use in children weighing more than 10kg (approximately one year old) but less than 33kg (Bristol-Myers Squibb). The dose is 15mg/kg per administration, ie, 1.5ml solution per kg up to four times a day. The minimum interval between administrations must be four hours. The maximum daily dose must not exceed 60mg/kg (without exceeding 2g). The maximum recommended daily dose in children weighing more than 33kg, adolescents and adults weighing less than 50kg has been changed from 4g to 3g. The summary of product characteristics now includes isolated reports of leucopenia and neutropenia, and further pharmacokinetic information has been included. See SPC.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Efexor 50mg tablets

Efexor (venlafaxine) tablets 50mg x 42 have been discontinued (Wyeth). Efexor tablets 37.5mg x 56 and 75mg x 56 remain available.

Penbritin

Penbritin (ampicillin) capsules and injection are being discontinued

Vantage pharmacists open new premises



Pictured (front row, left to right) are Tim Owen, MRPharmS, Ray Thomas, chairman of Merthyr Tydfil Local Health Board and Mark Griffiths, MRPharmS, opening the new Vantage Pharmacy, Beacon Pharmacy, in Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan. The premises was relocated from to a shopping arcade to provide more space for a wider range of professional services.

(GlaxoSmithKline). The company expects supplies to be available until December.

the GSK customer contact centre on 0800 221441.

COUNTER PRODUCTS

Fluconazole capsules

Fluconazole capsules 150mg are now available from Vantage; recommended retail price, 1 £5.99. Legal category P



SUPPLY ISSUES

Nubain injection

There are supply problems with Nubain (nalbuphine hydrochloride) injection (Bristol-Myers Squibb). Supplies are expected to become available again at the end of September. Queries should be directed to customer services on 01244 586250.

Puri-Nethol

UK packs of Puri-Nethol (mercaptopurine) tablets are currently out of stock (GlaxoSmithKline). Export stock containing a copy of the UK approved patient information leaflet is being supplied in its place. Any queries should be directed to

PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

Arixtra responsibility

Responsibility for Arixtra (fondaparinux sodium) will be transferred from Sanofi-Synthelabo to GlaxoSmithKline on 1 September. After this date any queries regarding the product should be directed to GSK on 0800 221441.

FUTURE EVENTS

PLEA seminar

Pharmacy Law and Ethics Association morning seminar on clinical negligence and its impact on pharmacy practice, entitled "Can I be sued?", British Pharmaceutical Conference, 29 September, 10.30am–1pm. Cost non-BPC delegates, £25, BPC delegates free of charge. Bookings via the Pharmacists Defence Association at www.conferenceevent.com.

CORRECTIONS

ABPI chief

Trevor Jones's successor as director-general of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry will be Richard Barker not Richard Baker (*PJ*, 7 August, p178).

David Cowan

In our **News feature** on 14 August we should have designated David Cowan as professor not doctor (p214).