

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Keppra

Keppra (levetiracetam) oral solution 100mg/ml and film-coated tablets 750mg are now available from UCB Pharma. Net price, 300ml oral solution £71, 60 tablets £89.10. Legal category: POM.

Moxonidine tablets

Moxonidine tablets 200µg, 300µg and 400µg are now available from APS/Berk. Net price 28, 200µg £9.93, 300µg £11.73, 400µg £13.55. Legal category: POM.

Thyroxine tablets

Thyroxine tablets 50µg and 100µg tablets are now available from Almus. Net price 28, 50µg £0.57, 100µg £0.86. Legal category: POM.

Spironolactone tablets

Spironolactone tablets 25mg, 50mg and 100mg are now available from Almus. Net price 28, 25mg £2.10, 50mg £4.49, 100mg £4.63. Legal category: POM.

GTN tablets

GTN (glyceryl trinitrate) tablets 500µg are now available from Almus. Net price, 100 £1.06. Legal category: POM.

SPC CHANGES

Avaxim

Avaxim (inactivated hepatitis A vaccine) is now licensed to be used as a booster in subjects who received another inactivated hepatitis A vaccine (monovalent or with purified Vi polysaccharide typhoid) six months to 36 months previously (Aventis Pasteur MSD). See SPC.

PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

Fortisip presentation

Fortisip liquid nutritional supplement is now available in bottles as well as cartons (Nutricia Clinical).



Periostat

The distribution of Periostat (doxycycline) has transferred from CollaGenex International Ltd to Alliance Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Supplies will continue to be in CollaGenex livery until the new Alliance packaging is available. The marketing authorisations will transfer at a later date. Further information is available on 01249 466966.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Rapamune tablets

Rapamune (sirolimus) tablets 1mg and 2mg packs of 100 are being discontinued (Wyeth). All other presentations remain available.

Prothiaden tablets

Prothiaden (dosulepin hydrochloride) tablets 75mg bottle presentation (500 tablets per bottle) is being discontinued (Abbott).

SUPPLY ISSUES

Edronax tablets

Edronax (reboxetine) tablets are currently out of stock (Pfizer). The company expects stock to be available from the week commencing 29 November.

APPOINTMENTS

Adrian Williams

Adrian Williams has been appointed director of pharmaceuticals at the University of Reading's School of Pharmacy. Professor Williams's work has examined the modes of action of penetration enhancers and developed novel formulations for drug delivery, including patches, supersaturated systems, liposomes and eutectic systems.

ABOUT PEOPLE

Innovation award

George Cannon, pharmacy operations manager at University College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, received the 2004 Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists "Innovation in pharmacologistics award", sponsored by Pfizer. The £1,500 award will fund a project entitled "Key performance indicators made possible", which aims to identify the data needed to report key performance indicators using web-based technology.

RESOURCES

Pain and pyrexia guide

A new guide, entitled "Guide to children's pain and fever for health professionals" is being distributed to health care professionals in primary care. A version has also been developed specifically for pharmacy assistants. Further details are available on 020 7815 3900.

Neuroendocrine tumours

Ipsen has added two information cards to its patient pack "Living with neuroendocrine tumour". The cards, "Sleep tips" and "Travel tips" address issues patients may face when having sleep problems or travelling abroad while taking medicines. Health care professionals can order the cards and patient pack on 01753 627777 (e-mail medical.information.uk@ipsen.com).

Hepatitis C

A new hepatitis C website that contains information on patient groups and resources has been launched by Roche. The site can be accessed at www.hep-links.com.

Swallowing difficulties

A new website has been launched by David Wright, a senior lecturer in pharmacy practice at the University of East Anglia, to provide advice to people who find tablets or capsules hard to swallow. The site can be accessed at www.swallowingdifficulties.com.

Motoring and medicines

A question and answer booklet entitled "Are you a driver taking medicine?" is available from the Guild of Experienced Motorists. For free copies of the booklet write to Motoring Assist, Station Road, Forest Row, East Sussex RH18 5EN or email info@motoringassist.com.

FUTURE EVENTS

Nutrition and health

Nutrition and Health conference, Excel Conference Centre, London, 9–10 December. Cost £85 (plus VAT). Further details are available on 020 8455 2126. Website www.nutritionandhealth.co.uk.

Information mastery

National Prescribing Centre in association with the University of Virginia department of family medicine workshops on "Information mastery — practising and teaching evidence-

based medicines in the real world", run by the founders of InfoPOEMS. Chesford Grange, Warwick, 17–18 March 2005 and Shringley Hall, Cheshire, 21–22 March 2005. Cost (before 1 December) NHS employees £485, others £950. Further details are available from Sharon Wright on 0151 794 8135 (e-mail sharon.wright@npc.nhs.uk).

Drug trade exhibition

Exhibition on "Drug trade — therapy, pharmacy and commerce in early-modern Europe", Museum of the History of Science, Oxford. Admission free. Open Tuesday to Saturday 12–4pm and Sunday 2–5pm until 13 March 2005. Website www.mhs.ox.ac.uk.

Biotechnology

University of Warwick continuing professional development course on "An introduction to biotechnology — from DNA isolation to protein production", Department of Biological Sciences, University of Warwick, 14–15 March 2005. Further details are available from Charlotte Moonan on 024 7652 3540 (e-mail charlotte.moonan@warwick.ac.uk).

Health services research

Health Services Research and Pharmacy Practice conference hosted by the College of Pharmacy Practice and University of Reading School of Pharmacy, Reading, 21–22 March 2005. Cost (resident delegate, booked before February) £199, PhD students £142. Closing date for abstract submission 10 December. Details from Teresa Holloway on 024 7622 1359. Website www.hsrrp.org.uk.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Sultan Dajani

Further to our **Broad spectrum** article last week (*PJ*, 13 November, p712), Sultan Dajani's contact e-mail address is SID2708@aol.com.

CLARIFICATION

Safety awards

NHS Tayside and Down Lisburn Health and Social Services Trust won £1m Safer Patient Awards, as well as Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust and Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust (*PJ*, 13 November, p707).

Correction

George Gannon's name was misspelled in the About people notice.