

SPC CHANGES

Enbrel

The summary of product characteristics for Enbrel (etanercept; Wyeth) now states that Enbrel is not recommended for the treatment of Wegener's granulomatosis. See SPC.

Meningitec

The summary of product characteristics for Meningitec (meningococcal group C conjugate vaccine; Wyeth) now includes information on a two-dose primary schedule, booster dose and concomitant use of investigation pneumococcal conjugate vaccine. The SPC states that for infants up to the age of 12 months, two doses should be given (each of 0.5ml). The first dose should not be given earlier than two months of age and there should be an interval of at least two months between doses. The SPC also now recommends that a booster dose be given after completion of the primary immunisation series in infants. See SPC.

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Crestor 5mg

Crestor (rosuvastatin) tablets 5mg are now available from AstraZeneca. The summary of product characteristics for Crestor has been updated. It now states that 5mg is the recommended starting dose in patients of Asian ancestry and for patients with moderate renal impairment or predisposing factors for myopathy (including renal impairment, hypothyroidism, hereditary muscular disorders, alcohol abuse, age over 70 years, risk of an increase in plasma levels and concomitant use of fibrates.) Net price, 28, £18.03. Legal category: POM. See SPC.

Sertraline

Sertraline tablets 50mg and 100mg are now available from PLIVA and Sandoz. Net price 50mg, 28,

£17.50 (PLIVA) and £17.82 (Sandoz), 100mg, 28, £28.50 (PLIVA) and £29.16 (Sandoz). Legal category: POM.

Zamadol 24hr

Zamadol 24hr (tramadol) prolonged release tablets 150mg, 200mg, 300mg and 400mg are now available from Viartis. Net price, 28, 150mg £10.70, 200mg £14.26, 300mg £21.39, 400mg £28.51. Legal category: POM.

DRUG TARIFF UPDATES

Diamorphine

The Department of Health and the National Assembly for Wales have agreed to allow NCSO ("no cheaper stock obtainable") endorsements for diamorphine 5mg, 10mg, 30mg, 100mg and 500mg injection ampoules for November prescriptions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Amphocil

Cambridge Laboratories is no longer the UK distributor of Amphocil (amphotericin). Queries about supply in the UK should now be directed to Three Rivers Pharmaceuticals, 312 Commerce Park Drive, Cranberry, Township, Pennsylvania 16066. Telephone +1 724 778 6100.

British Institute of Homoeopathy

The British Institute of Homoeopathy has moved to Endeavour House, 80 High Street Egham, Surrey TW20 9HE. Telephone 01784 473800. Fax 01784 473801. E-mail britinsthom@compuserve.com. Website www.britinsthom.com.

University of Bradford

The following students have been awarded the diploma in clinical pharmacy (community) by the school of pharmacy, University of Bradford: Lisa Collins (distinction), Daniela Cousins (merit), Peter Gibbs (merit), Alex Haddy (distinction), Osama Madlom, Christine Nandudu, Karine Nash (merit), Susan Regan (merit), Elizabeth Scott (distinction), Donnella Smith (distinction), Nicola Stanbridge, Deborah Wootton (distinction). The following candidates have been awarded the certificate in clinical pharmacy (community) by the school of pharmacy, University of Bradford: Javed Iqbal, Oluranti Oluwatimehin.

APPOINTMENTS

Superdrug

Martin Crisp, MRPharmS, has been appointed head of pharmacy at Superdrug. Mr Crisp joins Superdrug after a 19-year career with Boots The Chemists where he was regional pharmacy manager for London and the South East.

UK Psychiatric Pharmacy Group

Graham Parton, MRPharmS, has been appointed chairman of the UK Psychiatric Pharmacy Group. Mr Graham is chief pharmacist of the Avon and Bath Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust.

University of Nottingham

Helen Boardman, MRPharmS, has been appointed lecturer in pharmacy practice at the Centre for Pharmacy, Health and Society, at the University of Nottingham's school of pharmacy.

WANTS

Aston Pharmacy Association history

The Aston Pharmacy Association is trying to trace the history of the pharmacy student association at Aston University and would like to hear from former Aston University students who can provide details about the association during their time at the university. Atif Ishaq, APA president, can be contacted on 07971 519388 (e-mail pres@apaonline.org.uk).

RESOURCE

Cerebral palsy

A booklet on the role of botulinum toxin in the treatment of cerebral palsy has been developed by Ipsen and Scope. It includes answers to questions frequently asked by parents and children. Copies can be obtained from www.scope.org.uk or by telephoning 01753 627777.

Dizziness

Self-help booklets on balance retraining and coping with dizziness have been produced by the Ménière's Society. The booklets can be ordered on 0845 1202975.

Research funding

A Department of Health-funded website providing access to details of research funding, training and advice is available at www.rdinfo.org.uk. Further

information and advice for researchers is available on 0113 295 1122.

FUTURE EVENTS

Own a pharmacy

Young Pharmacists' Group's "Own a pharmacy" conference will be taking place alongside UniChem's Pharmacist Development Weekend, Glynhill Hotel, Glasgow, 25-27 November. Further information from Noel Wicks on 07961 189449 (e-mail noel@thecampuspharmacy.com).

Medicines management

Medicines management in children workshop, 2 December, Warwick University. Cost £176.25. Further information from Rachel Jaynes on 07976 417312 (e-mail Rachel@morphconsultancy.co.uk) or Duncan Jenkins on 07811 391646.

HIV

HIV Pharmacy Association regional study day for pharmacists in the Midlands and South of England on adherence and patient counselling, 8 December, Churchill Hospital, Oxford, 1.30pm to 5pm. Free of charge. To attend e-mail john.beale@orh.nhs.uk.

Drug utilisation

Drug Utilisation Research Group annual scientific meeting, Royal Society of Medicine, London, 9 February 2006. Cost: £100 (including £30 annual membership fee). Further information from Barbara Sandland on 01782 584131 (e-mail b.sandland@mema.keele.ac.uk).

YPG Conference

Young Pharmacists' Group 20th year celebration, Birmingham, 25 and 26 February 2006, followed by a conference exploring "Shifting paradigms in pharmacy". Further information from Gavin Miller on 07932 743864 (e-mail conference@ygp.info). Website www.ygp.info

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ginseng

The standardised ginseng extract described in a news item (PJ, 29 October, p541) was made up of 80 per cent poly-furanosyl-saccharides and 10 per cent protein formulated from the roots of North American ginseng. The capsules contained 200mg of freeze-dried extract.

Events

The Journal welcomes details of future events relevant to pharmacists. There is no charge for insertion of an item but The Journal is unable to guarantee insertion on any given date. Details can be sent by e-mail to notice-board@pharmj.org.uk