

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Viroflu

Viroflu (inactivated influenza vaccine) pre-filled syringes are now available from Sanofi Pasteur MSD. Net price, one, £6.59, 10 £65.90. Legal category: POM.

SPC CHANGES

ReFacto

The summary of product characteristics for ReFacto (moroctocog alfa; Wyeth) now states that ReFacto, when reconstituted, contains polysorbate-80, which increases the rate of di-(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate extraction from polyvinyl chloride. This should be considered during preparation and administration of ReFacto, including storage time elapsed in a PVC container following reconstitution. See SPC.

Xagrid

The summary of product characteristics for Xagrid (anagrelide; Shire) now recommends that patients with moderate or severe hepatic impairment are not treated with anagrelide. The section on the impact of food on the pharmacokinetics of Xagrid has also been updated. See SPC.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

AlitraQ

AlitraQ is being discontinued by Abbott from 31 December.

Locabiotol

Locabiotol (fusafungine) spray (10ml) will be discontinued by Servier Laboratories from 31 December. Further information on 01753 666 409.

SUPPLY ISSUES

Scopoderm TTS patches

Scopoderm TTS patches will not be available from Novartis Consumer Health until early 2006. Information about availability can be obtained from early 2006 on 01403 218111. Medical information is available on 01403 323046.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New packaging

TEVA UK has begun to replace its existing APS-branded retail

packaging with new generics packaging. The replacement programme will take over a year and will start with the most frequently used products. Information packs and details of the new style are available on CD-ROM by telephoning 0800 590 502 or visiting www.teva360.com.

APPOINTMENTS

Janice Perkins

Janice Perkins, MRPharmS, has been appointed superintendent pharmacist at United Co-op Health Care. She joined the company as business development manager in 2000.

WANTS

Scientific advisers

The NHS Appointments Commission would like to hear from people who have recent experience in clinical pharmacology, general practice, biostatistics or epidemiology and are interested in being members of the independent scientific advisory committee for the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency database research. An information pack can be obtained from www.appointments.org.uk/vacancies (quoting reference NAT181) or by telephoning 0870 240 3802.

Multiload

Hilary Cooling would like to hear from pharmacists with surplus stocks of Multiload 250 and 250 short intrauterine devices who would be willing to donate them. The devices would be of use in a rural part of Nigeria. Dr Cooling can be emailed at hilary.cooling@ubht.swest.nhs.uk.

RESOURCES

Dystonia

A leaflet for people with dystonia that addresses key questions about botulinum toxin has been produced by Ipsen. It is available by telephoning 01753 627777 (e-mail medical.information.uk@ipsen.com).

Medicines in falls

Learning packs covering the management of medicines in older people have been developed by the Medicines in Falls Support Programme for staff from health, social care, voluntary and private organisations who have no formal

RECALLED PRODUCTS AND INFORMATION

Pulmicort (budesonide) Turbohaler 100µg

Star Pharmaceuticals is recalling all batches of Pulmicort (budesonide) Turbohaler 100µg with licence number PLPI 20636/1321. The recall follows concerns of potential differences in therapeutic effect compared with other Pulmicort 100µg products on the UK market. Recipients are requested to quarantine any remaining stock of this batch and contact their normal supplier to arrange return and credit. For medical information and general enquiries contact 020 8423 2111.

Infant formula

The Food Standards Agency has been informed that isopropylthioxanthone, a component of printing inks, may be present at low levels in some liquid infant formula products. Some liquid infant formula products sold by Nutricia and SMA may be affected. On the basis of current evidence the Food Standards Agency does not consider this to be a food safety issue requiring consumer action. It is advising parents and carers that there is no need to change their baby's feed.

clinical training. Further information is available from www.mmnetwork.nhs.uk or by emailing denise.szpunar@dha.nhs.uk.

(members), £34 (non-members). Available from NPA sales on 01727 858687 extension 3469.

Prostate cancer

A guidance tool for managing prostate cancer — developed by the British Uro-oncology Group, the British Association of Urological Surgeons and the British Prostate Group — is available by telephoning 020 8834 1550 (e-mail julia.sykes@ralearning.com).

Medicines use reviews

The National Pharmacy Association has produced a resource pack to provide pharmacists with guidance and support in setting up a medicines use review service. Cost £28

Advertisement

Corrections

Medicines in falls

The e-mail address for Denise Szpunar should have read denise.szpunar@clha.nhs.uk, not as stated.

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