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Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society
of Great Britain

Patient safety vital in transfer of home oxygen service, says Society

The need to maintain patient safety during the transfer of the home oxygen service in England and Wales from community pharmacies to regional oxygen supply companies has been emphasised by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. Four regional contractors will supply both cylinders and concentrators as part of an integrated service from 1 February — four months after the originally intended date.

The Society says that the delay has caused confusion and there are worries that some patients may be left without oxygen when the new service begins. To address these concerns the Society calls on primary care trusts and pharmacists to work together to ensure that the new service is implemented as smoothly as possible and with minimal risk to patients.

The Society is also helping pharmacists to direct their patients towards sources of advice and information about the new arrangements. Four key points have been identified for pharmacists to bear in mind (see Panel).

Council Member Sid Dajani, who chairs the Practice Committee, says: "Importantly, we would encourage pharmacists to ask patients to ensure they have oxygen supplies leading up to the transition period to minimise the need for the new supplier to make emergency supplies during the handover period."

To help pharmacists, national pharmacy organisations have developed a template letter

Key points

- Patients unable to obtain oxygen before 1 February should contact their local primary care trust. Patients unable to obtain oxygen after 1 February should telephone their new supplier using a 24-hour emergency hotline number: Air Products, 0800 373580; Allied Respiratory, 0500 823773; BOC Vitalair, 0800 136603; Linde 0808 2020999
- A single supplier will meet all patients' home oxygen needs, whether cylinder, concentrator or liquid oxygen
- Worried patients can be advised to call NHS Direct (tel 0845 4647), which will explain the changes and print copies of the NHS leaflet about home oxygen supply and send to callers if they do not have access to the internet
- A new section of the primary care contracting website provides details of the home oxygen service and includes a range of materials for pharmacists to download. It can be accessed at www.primarycarecontracting.nhs.uk/118.php

for community pharmacists to disseminate to their patients during this period of transition. It is available from the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee website (www.psn.org.uk).

This week

■ Home oxygen service

The Society has issued guidance to ease the forthcoming transfer of home oxygen services in England and Wales from community pharmacies to the new regional oxygen supply companies (p21).

■ Council meeting observer

A pharmacist who was a branch observer at a recent Council meeting reports on his experience (p22).

Final details for inspector's preregistration talk in Blackburn

Details have now been finalised for the Blackburn session in this season's series of presentations by Royal Pharmaceutical Society inspectors for preregistration trainees. Full details for Blackburn were not available when the main list of presentations was published (*PJ*, 22 October 2005, p533).

It has now been confirmed that the session will take place on Thursday 23 March, from 9.30am to 12.30pm, at the Learning Centre, Queens Park Hospital, Haslingden Road, Blackburn. The session will be presented by Stan Brandwood, inspector for the area. Booking is not necessary.

Further information, including travel advice, is available from the preregistration training page in the education section of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/education).

Law and ethics bulletin

Ketamine becomes a Class C Controlled Drug

Pharmacists are advised that, as of 1 January 2006, an amendment to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 classifies ketamine as a Class C Controlled Drug. A corresponding change has also been made to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001, which classifies ketamine as a Schedule 4, Part 1 Controlled Drug. Pharmacists should refer to p25 of 'Medicines, ethics and practice: a guide for pharmacists' (29th edition) for a summary of the legal requirements for Schedule 4, Part 1 CDs.

Extended formulary nurse prescribers and Controlled Drugs

Further to the guidance printed in *The Pharmaceutical Journal* on 12 November 2005 (p617), pharmacists are notified that an amendment has been made to the Prescription Only Medicines (Human Use) Order 1997. From 6 January 2006, Extended formulary nurse prescribers can prescribe, administer or supply the following CDs, solely for the medical conditions indicated:

- Diamorphine, diazepam, lorazepam, midazolam, morphine and oxycodone for use in palliative care

- Buprenorphine and fentanyl for transdermal use in palliative care
- Diamorphine and morphine for pain relief in respect of suspected myocardial infarction or for relief of acute or severe pain after trauma, including in either case post-operative pain relief
- Chlordiazepoxide hydrochloride and diazepam for treatment of initial or acute alcohol withdrawal symptoms
- Codeine phosphate, dihydrocodeine tartrate and co-phenotrope (no restrictions on medical conditions)

Watching the Council in action

A few representatives of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's branches are invited to attend each meeting of the Society's Council as observers.

Mark Burdon from the Sunderland branch, reports on his experiences as an observer at a recent Council meeting

In October 2005 I joined four fellow branch observers for a two-day visit to the Society's London headquarters. My colleagues were Mohammed Ahmed (Doncaster), Clive Goalen (Harrogate), Gerard Scott (Isle of Wight) and Dennis Higgins (Thames Valley). Also there as an observer was the president of the British Pharmaceutical Students Association, Gautam Paul.

Council meetings normally begin at 3.30pm on Tuesday afternoon, following a meeting of the Society's Officers in the morning. Before the Council meeting began we met Rob Darracott, Director of Corporate and Strategic Development, who explained the agenda for the two days.

Changes

Having been familiar with the old Council chamber I was surprised by the changes that had occurred since my previous visit. Gone were the plush leather seating and dark flock wallpaper; in their place were bland office chairs and plain white walls. This arrangement is a temporary one arising from the increase in the membership of the Council. Accommodation has had to be made for several extra lay members, for two pharmacy technician members and for an academic pharmacist elected to represent the schools of pharmacy. Work on new accommodation for the Council begins in 2006 as part of plans for redevelopment of the basement meeting facilities.

I was particularly interested to see how the new Council would function, following the changes in its structure. It was interesting to watch the political manoeuvres that some

new members made, in an attempt to secure their position early in the new regime. I had been sceptical of the benefits of the lay membership but was impressed by the depth of knowledge of pharmacy issues held by some of them. Another satisfying aspect for me personally was the number of Sunderland graduates on the Council, including the President, Hemant Patel.

The meeting proceeded slowly through the public business, which gave the observers a chance to acclimatise. There was much debate on the membership fee structure for 2006, and the Council considered the comments received from members and the letters published in *The Pharmaceutical Journal*. However, the Council had difficulty in reaching decisions, particularly on the introduction of a reduced fee for long-serving members.

AGM motions

I was particularly pleased by the volume of debate on the motions carried at the 2005 annual general meeting. The motions concerning the formation of a membership committee and a communications committee resulted in a great deal of interest and discussion around the Council chamber. It was agreed that an externally facilitated review of communications be undertaken which will report its findings in 2006.

Observers at Council meetings are excluded from the confidential part of the meeting, so we had a late start to day two. We joined the meeting after the coffee break, only to be asked to leave again within minutes as the meeting moved back to confi-

dential business. This gave us the opportunity to view the Society's museum displays.

For lunch on day two each branch observer was allocated a designated Council member as a "buddy". I was paired with Stephen Denyer, head of the Welsh School of Pharmacy and chairman of the Science Committee. Professor Denyer was elected to the Council in 2005 as the academic member.

After lunch, we rejoined the Council for a presentation on the future public health role of pharmacy. The presentation was given by Roger Walker and James McEwen, of Pharmacy Health Link.

The two days provided a fascinating opportunity to observe how the Society runs and I would certainly recommend it to fellow branch members.

Further information

Members of the Society who would like to observe the Council at work should make their interest known to their local branch secretary. Branches are invited to send observers on a rotational basis. Information about the local branches is available from Amanda King, membership manager, or Emma Rodriguez, membership officer (e-mail b&ra@rpsgb.org).

The roles of the branches in career promotion and in pharmacy public relations are discussed in the next issue of the twice-yearly *Network News*, which will be published with *The Pharmaceutical Journal* next week. It will also include a list of branch meetings planned for the first half of 2006.

'Medicines, ethics and practice': January list of amendments

In the first issue of each month, *The Journal* updates the guidance on the legal status of medicines published in the 29th edition (July 2005) of 'Medicines, ethics and practice: A guide for pharmacists'.

The amendments are given in **bold** type when added to the

list and repeated each month in light type. A product's legal status can be obtained by consulting first the latest amendment list and then the guide.

The abbreviations used in the list are explained in the key to annotations in the body of the guide (p29 and p75).

Human medicines

Aloxi solution for injection POM	Diva tablets POM	Levonelle 1500 tablets POM	Oraqix periodontal gel POM	Vantage chesty cough linctus P
Apidra solution for injection POM	Easyhaler beclometasone dry powder inhaler POM	Numark chloramphenicol 0.5% eye drops P	Peptac Peppermint GSL	Vantage dry cough linctus P
Aptivus capsules POM	Enbrel injection POM	Numark flu relief capsules GSL	Prexige tablets POM	Vantage flu strength all in one P
Atimos Modulite inhaler POM	Fendrix hepatitis B (rDNA) vaccine POM	Numark max strength cold and flu sachets GSL	Rectogesic rectal ointment POM	Varivax injection POM
Azilect tablets POM	Flomaxtra XL tablets POM	Octim injection POM	Reminyl XL capsules POM	Viroflu vaccine POM
Bonviva tablets POM	Fosavance tablets POM	Omalizumab powder and solvent for injection POM	Seractyl tablets POM	Xolair POM
Chirocaine POM	Hedrin P	Optrex Infected Eyes P	Sodium citrate oral solution 0.3M (Viridian Pharma) POM	Zonegran capsules POM
Clarospir granules for suspension POM	Inegy tablets POM		Tarceva tablets POM	Zamadol 24hr tablets POM
	Ketamine hydrochloride entry should read:		Tipranivir capsules POM	Zolpidem tartrate entry should read: Zolpidem tartrate CD Benz POM
	Ketamine CD Benz POM		UniChem Rehydration Treatment GSL	

OFFICIAL NOTICES

Communications to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society should be addressed, unless otherwise stated, to: The Secretary and Registrar, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7735 9141; fax 020 7735 7629). Official Notices also appear in the Notice-Board section of PJ Online (www.pjonline.com/notices).

Erasures from the Register on the direction of the Statutory Committee

The name of the following person was erased from the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists on 20 December 2005 following the direction of the Statutory Committee at its meeting on 20 September 2005: **Rajiv Kumar Sarna** (registration number 76820), of Sunningdale, Ascot, Berkshire.

The name of the following person was erased from the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists on 22 December 2005 following the direction of the Statutory Committee at its meeting on 22 September 2005: **Rajesh Chaganbhai Mistry** (registration number 91540), of Highgate, London N6.

Ann Lewis
Secretary and Registrar

DEATHS

Fearon On 13 December 2005, Norman Fearon, MRPharmS, of Owl Cottage, 69 Owl Way, Hartford, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 1YZ. Mr Fearon registered in 1941. He leaves a son Paul, daughter-in-law Pam and grandchildren Andrew, Susannah and Daniel.

German On 5 December 2005, Wesley James German, MRPharmS, aged 98, of Room 3, Abbeyfield House Retirement Home, Link Road, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire HP16 9AE. Mr German registered in 1934

Heap On 27 November 2005, Isobel Grace Heap, MRPharmS, aged 91, of 22 Heaton Road, Gledholt, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD1 4HZ. Miss Heap registered in 1945.

Stead On 18 November 2005, Raymond Stead, MRPharmS, aged 76, of 10 Diamond Ridge, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST12 9DT. Mr Stead registered in 1950.

Strachan On 13 November 2005, Forbes Burnett Strachan, MRPharmS, aged 89, of 198 Dukes Road, Burnside, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 5AA. Mr Strachan registered in 1950.

Tyrer On 5 December 2005, Horace Geoffrey Tyrer, MRPharmS, aged 61, of 170

Norden Road, Bamford, Rochdale, Lancashire OL11 5PT. Mr Tyrer registered in 1967.

Wheeler On 16 September 2005, Colin David Wheeler, MRPharmS, aged 77, of 10 Ffordd Dinas, Cwmavon, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan SA12 9BS. Mr Wheeler registered in 1959.

Woods Recently, Susan Claire Woods, MRPharmS, aged 52, of 30 High Street, Meldreth, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 6JU. Mrs Woods registered in 1978.

Zeelenberg (Cutler) On 27 December, Saskia Zeelenberg (Mrs Cutler), of Sandylane South, Wallington, Surrey SM6 9RE. Ms Zeelenberg joined the staff of the Pharmaceutical Society in 1977 and was employed in the practice division for 20 years. She was known to many pharmacists through her work with the Society's membership groups, particularly the Hospital Pharmacists Group and the Agricultural and Veterinary Pharmacists Group. See Tribute below). *Funeral:* 11 January, 2pm, Leatherhead Crematorium (family flowers only).

TRIBUTES

Zeelenberg (Cutler) In a tribute to the late Saskia Zeelenberg (Mrs Cutler) (see above), BRUCE RHODES

writes: Saskia Zeelenberg, as she then was, came to work for the Pharmaceutical Society from the Law Society shortly after the new headquarters building opened at 1 Lambeth High Street in September 1976. She was Dutch, had a Dutch law degree and had no knowledge of pharmacy.

Her work was within the practice division as a colleague to me as assistant secretary. Within a short time she endeared herself to the staff and to large sections of the profession, particularly those in the hospital and agricultural and veterinary spheres. She was a charming person and helped make what could be at times a pressurised environment quite fun. In her career with the Society she absorbed the ethos of the profession and understood what the Council was trying to do and helped us to achieve some of it.

She married Alan and became Mrs Cutler before retiring in 1997. Her former colleagues will miss her and remember her with great affection. The profession has lost a faithful servant.

Our thoughts go out to her husband Alan, whose loss is so much greater.

BILL BROOKES writes: The news of the death of Saskia Zeelenberg meant the loss of a close friend. For that was what she had become over the years following the inception of the Pharmaceutical Society's Hospital Pharmacists Group Committee in 1976. Saskia was one of a splendid quartet (the others were Raymond Dickinson, Bruce Rhodes and Syd Southwell) who nurtured and guided that infant group, ensuring that nothing was left to chance. The meticulous briefings, detailed supporting papers and careful preparation were a boon to the group and especially to its chairmen — and as chairman for four years I can testify to that support.

But Saskia became more than just a competent administrator with an ever welcoming smile. Although a rather private person she had a warm and engaging personality and over the years she became a close friend. She kept me in touch not only with her own life but also with the lives other ex-Lambeth colleagues. Another link with the good days of the Society has been lost — another reminder that eventually memories are all that are left to us.

Saskia was good to know and will be remembered with love and affection. Our thoughts are with Alan at this sad time.

Society membership groups

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has established special interest groups for community pharmacists, for veterinary pharmacists, for industrial, regulatory and technical pharmacists, for hospital pharmacists and for pharmacy academic staff. The groups hold meetings to consider topics of interest within their own fields of practice and they provide a source of advice to the Society's Council on specialist matters. Details of the groups can be obtained from the Society. Contact details are given below.

Community Pharmacists Group The Community Pharmacists Group, formed at the beginning of 1994, is open to all pharmacists engaged in the practice of community pharmacy. The group committee has the discretion to grant membership to pharmacists who are not engaged in community pharmacy practice but who have a direct involvement or demonstrable interest in that aspect of pharmacy. Contact: Angela Canning, practice division (tel 020 7572 2412; e-mail angela.canning@rpsgb.org).

Veterinary Pharmacists Group The Veterinary Pharmacists Group is open to all pharmacists who are engaged in, or actively considering engaging in, the preparation or supply of agricultural chemicals, veterinary medicines and allied products. Other pharmacists may be granted membership at the discretion of the group committee. Contact: Lorraine Fearon, practice division (tel 020 7572 2409; e-mail lorraine.fearon@rpsgb.org).

Industrial Pharmacists Group The Industrial Pharmacists Group is for pharmacists who are engaged in industrial practice, those who act as consultants to industry, those whose work is concerned substantially with questions of industrial pharmaceutical practice and those whose work concerns, or who have an interest in, industrial, regulatory or technical matters affecting pharmacy. Contact: Angela Canning, practice division (tel 020 7572 2412; e-mail angela.canning@rpsgb.org).

Hospital Pharmacists Group The Hospital Pharmacists Group is for pharmacists who work in NHS, private or armed forces hospitals and those employed by, or acting as consultants to, NHS health authorities, health boards and trusts. Also eligible are pharmacists working in the prison service, community pharmacists seconded to provide a service within a private hospital and other pharmacists whose work is significantly concerned with matters relating to the practice of hospital pharmacy. Contact: Lorraine Fearon, practice division (tel 020 7572 2409; e-mail lorraine.fearon@rpsgb.org).

Academic Pharmacy Group The Academic Pharmacy Group is open to pharmacists and other academic staff who make a significant contribution to pharmacy teaching and research in a UK school of pharmacy or a recognised pharmacy academic practice unit. Contact: Damian Day, education and registration directorate (tel 020 7572 2215; e-mail damian.day@rpsgb.org).

DIARY

Headquarters meetings

The following meetings take place at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's London headquarters

Monday 9 January

Meeting of Officers. 10.30am.
Infringements Committee. 1pm.

Tuesday 10 January

Adjudicating Committee. 10am.

Wednesday 11 January

Reciprocity. 10am.

Local meetings

Events listed below are meetings of Royal Pharmaceutical Society branches. Details of all future meetings notified to *The Journal* appear in the Diary section of *PJ Online* (www.pjonline.com/diary)

Monday 9 January

Nottingham "Information technology requirements and the new NHS contract" by Farid Poonja (NHS information technology manager, Alliance Pharmacy). School of Pharmacy, University of Nottingham. Finger buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Tuesday 10 January

Oxfordshire "Treatment centres" by Philippa Blakey (divisional director, Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals). George Pickering Postgraduate Centre, Level 3, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headington. Light refreshments 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Northern Scottish "Continuing professional development" by Angela Mason (CPD facilitator, Royal Pharmaceutical Society). Marriott Hotel, Culcabock Road, Inverness. Tea, coffee and sandwiches. 7.30pm.

Slough "Continuing professional development" by Anthony Trice (CPD facilitator, Royal Pharmaceutical Society). John Lister Postgraduate Centre, (Entrance 4). Wexham Park Hospital. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.

Wednesday 11 January

Sheffield "Update on treatment of high blood pressure" by Peter Jackson (consultant physician, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust). EEf, Broomgrove Crescent (off Clarkehouse Road), Sheffield. 7 for 7.30pm.

Royal Pharmaceutical Society Chiltern Region

Evening meeting: Politics and pharmacy

- **Date and time:** 16 January, 7.15 for 8pm.
- **Venue:** Macmillan Room, Portcullis House, London SW1 (main entrance on Victoria Embankment).
- **Content:** Discussion on "Can political party positions/policies help meet the changing role of pharmacy?"
- **Speakers:** To include Andrew Lansley, MP (shadow secretary of state for health), Sandra Gidley, MP, MRPharmS (Lib Dem spokesperson for older people and shadow minister for women's issues) and John D'Arcy (director, National Pharmacy Association). Other MPs also invited.
- **Refreshment:** Buffet food and drinks.
- **Fees:** No charge, but admission is by ticket only.
- **Further information:** Tickets obtainable by sending full postal address to Jackie Ruffle, Chiltern Region secretary (e-mail JCRuffle@aol.com; tel 0118 969 2510).

South East Metropolitan Annual general meeting. Friends' Meeting House, Lawn Terrace, Blackheath, London SE3. 8pm.

Thursday 12 January

Bolton "Sexual health" by Margaret Clugston (team co-ordinator, Parallel Young Persons Health Centre, Bolton) and Charlotte MacKinnon (GP with special interest in adolescent medicine). Education Centre, Royal Bolton Hospital, Farnworth. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Lanarkshire "Journals and the media" by Olivia Timbs (editor, *The Pharmaceutical Journal*). Hilton Strathclyde Hotel, Bellshill. 8pm.

Monday 16 January

Chiltern region Discussion: "Can political party positions/policies help meet the changing role of pharmacy?" Speakers to include members of Parliament. Portcullis House, London SW1. 7.15 for 8pm. Admission by ticket only. (See panel above for further information.)

Royal Pharmaceutical Society and Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Symposium: Small-scale manufacturing

- **Date:** 7 February
- **Venue:** AstraZeneca R&D, Charnwood, Loughborough
- **Content:** Challenges facing small-scale manufacturing across the spectrum from global pharmaceutical companies to specials and NHS manufacturing
- **Aim:** To provide an update for professionals, scientists, managers and technicians from industry, academia, the NHS and contract research organisations who have an interest in small-scale manufacturing
- **Fees:** Members £200, non-members £250, academic members £100, academic non-members £150, associate members £50, student non-members £75
- **Further information:** Lisa Gilbert, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2261 fax 020 7572 2506; e-mail science@rpsgb.org); see also www.rpsgb.org/science

Royal Pharmaceutical Society and Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Residential course: Stability testing

- **Dates:** 13 February (noon) to 15 February (1.30pm)
- **Venue:** The Moller Centre, Cambridge
- **Content:** To include criteria for product stability, problems associated with specific product types (including biotechnology products), new technology for stability assessment and the application and limitations of stability test procedures (workshop sessions will use practical examples to illustrate essential steps in the development of stability testing protocols)
- **Aim:** Appraisal of the rationale and techniques associated with the stability testing of pharmaceuticals and related products
- **Fees:** £1,685, reduced to £1,598 for members of the Society or the academy; includes two nights' accommodation, all meals and refreshments, course documentation, CD-ROM with relevant reference sources and VAT
- **Further information:** Lisa Gilbert, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London, SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2261; fax 020 7572 2506; e-mail science@rpsgb.org); see also www.rpsgb.org/science



Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

London headquarters

Switchboard 020 7735 9141; direct dialling, see 'Medicines, ethics and practice'; fax 020 7735 7629; e-mail enquiries@rpsgb.org; website www.rpsgb.org

Scottish Department

Headquarters of the Society in Scotland (including library and information service) 0131 556 4386 (see also 'MEP' guide); fax 0131 558 8850; e-mail info@rpsis.com

Welsh Executive

Headquarters of the Society's Welsh Executive 029 2041 2800; fax 029 2041 2810; e-mail wales@rpsgb.org

Information centre

Book loans and information Library (loans, photocopies) 020 7572 2300; e-mail library@rpsgb.org Technical information, 020 7572 2302; fax 020 7572 2499; e-mail techinfo@rpsgb.org

Pharmacists' advisory service

Information on legal and ethical matters relating to pharmacy practice, 020 7572 2308; fax 020 7572 2510, e-mail ftp@rpsgb.org

Pharmaceutics information

Information, advice and problem-solving 020 7572 2302; fax 020 7572 2499; e-mail pharm.div.rpsgb@dial.pipex.com

Benevolent fund

Financial help for pharmacists and their dependants and information about convalescence 01926 315994 or 01323 890135

Pharmacists' health support programme

Confidential help and support for pharmacists who experience problems with alcohol and other drugs of addiction 01926 315138

Listening friends scheme

Help from pharmacists trained in dealing with stress 020 7572 2442

Pharmaceutical press

Purchase of books and subscriptions to journals 01491 829272; fax 01491 829292; custserv@turpin-distribution.com; website www.pharmpress.com

Correction

Isobel Grace Heap (p27) was aged 81, not 91.