

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Budesonide Easyhaler

Budesonide Easyhaler is now available from Ranbaxy in three strengths. Net price, 100µg 200 dose £9.25, 200µg 200 dose £18.50, 400µg 100 dose £18.50. Legal category: POM.



Duodopa

Duodopa (levodopa and carbidopa) intestinal gel 2,000mg/500mg in 100ml is now available from Solvay. Net Price, 100ml cassette £77. Legal category: POM.

Revatio

Revatio (sildenafil) tablets 20mg will be available from Pfizer from 6 March. Net price, 90 tablets £373.50. Legal category: POM.



SPC CHANGES

Vfend

The summary of product characteristics for Vfend (voriconazole; Pfizer) 50mg and 200mg film-coated tablets, Vfend 200mg powder for solution for infusion and Vfend 40mg/ml powder for oral suspension has been updated. It now states that coadministration with low dose ritonavir (100mg twice daily) should be avoided unless an assessment of the benefit and risk justifies the use of voriconazole. See SPC.

Zomacton

The summary of product characteristics for Zomacton (somatropin; Ferring) injection 4mg now states that Zomacton contains 9mg/ml benzyl alcohol, that it must not be given to premature babies or neonates and that it may cause toxic reactions and anaphylactoid reactions in

infants and children up to three years old. See SPC.

AWARDS

Health informatics

NHS Leadership in Health Informatics Accolade Scheme 2006 is open for NHS organisations to enter innovative schemes and initiatives that have cemented relationships between front-line staff, IT staff, developers, educators and trainers. Small, department-based projects and large scale initiatives can be entered. Further details are available at www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk. Closing date 7 April.

Leaders for change

The Health Foundation is inviting applications for its Leaders for Change competitive award scheme. The scheme will support up to 14 people to attend a modular, structured learning programme in change management at Lancaster University management school. It also awards an allowance for personal development training of £3,000. It is open to health care professionals leading service improvement at a local level. Applications can be made at www.health.org.uk. Closing date 3 May.

Medicines information

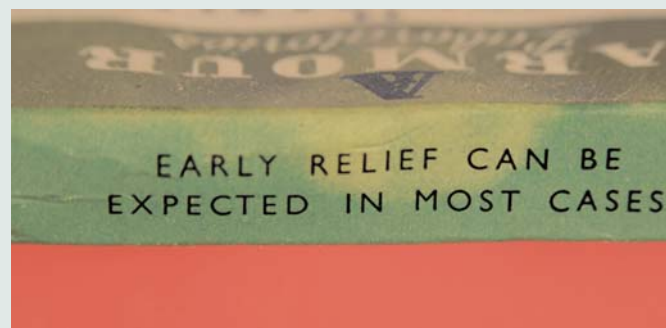
Applications are sought for the Ask About Medicines Awards for Excellence 2006. The awards reward excellence in: providing medicines information to medicine users and the public; improving communication between health care professionals and patients or medicine users; use of technology and reaching diverse populations; and communicating with carers or non-health care professionals working with patients or medicine users. Further information and entry forms are available from www.askaboutmedicines.org/awards. Closing date 28 April.

WANTS

Benzodiazepine users

Melanie Greenall would like to hear from pharmacists who have been involved in running or overseeing a service for benzodiazepine or antidepressant users. She is interested in the clinical management of the service and also the financial

Photographic exhibition



An exhibition entitled "The packaged pill" by pharmacist and photographer Pete Schiazza can be seen at the Viewfinder Photography Gallery, Greenwich, London, until 9 March. The show includes a series of images of

1950s drug packaging and a photographic commentary on the use of medicines today. The gallery is open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday and from 12 to 4pm at the weekend. Entrance is free (tel 020 8858 8351).

management, including business cases and obtaining funding. Telephone 01253 306395 (e-mail melanie.greenall@fyldpct.nhs.uk).

ANNOUNCEMENT

Online forum

A new online pharmacy discussion forum is now available at www.pharmacy-forum.co.uk.

RESOURCES

Cancer patients

Macmillan Cancer Relief has published the sixth edition of its "Directory of information materials for people with cancer". Information from the directory is available using the online search facility at www.macmillan.org.uk/cancerpublications. A limited number of copies are available by telephoning 01344 350310.

Domestic abuse

"Responding to domestic abuse — a handbook for health professionals" can be downloaded from the Department of Health website (www.dh.gov.uk).

Moving patients

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists, Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee and Primary Care Pharmacists' Association's guidance on moving patients between different health care settings — "Moving patients, moving medicines, moving safely" — can be downloaded free of charge from the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org).

FUTURE EVENTS

Natural products

Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences meeting on "Natural products active against human pathogens", 6–7 April, Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, Surrey. Cost members £280 (before 1 April) £350. Non-members £320/£400. Further information available at www.apsgb.org.

National Association of Women Pharmacists

National Association of Women Pharmacists annual conference, 21–23 April, entitled "Carers and caring for the future", Kent, Hill conference centre, Milton Keynes. Cost £150, day rates available. Open to members, non-members and technicians. Further details on 01509 230463 (e-mail vphmp@tiscali.co.uk). Website www.nawp.org.uk.

Neurology

Primary Care Neurology Society conference, 11 May, London. Further information available on 01483 243336. Website www.p-cns.org.uk.

Prescribing advisers

Scottish prescribing advisers association conference, 17 May, Dunblane. Further information is available on 0118 9844977 (e-mail bookings@pharman.co.uk). Website www.pharman.co.uk.

Nucare mini conference and family weekend

Nucare mini conference and family weekend, 29 September to 2 October, Centre Parcs, Whinfall Forest, Cumbria. Further information is available from Betty Kelly on 01827 841200.