

SPC CHANGES

Remicade

The summary of product characteristics for Remicade (infliximab; Schering-Plough) has been updated to include an additional indication for the treatment of moderate to severe ulcerative colitis in patients who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy (including corticosteroids and 6-mercaptopurine or azathioprine) or who are intolerant to, or have contraindications for, such therapies. The dose for this indication is 5mg/kg given as an intravenous infusion over two hours followed by additional 5mg/kg infusion doses, two and six weeks after the first infusion, then every eight weeks thereafter. The SPC says that continued therapy after 14 weeks should be carefully reconsidered in patients who show no evidence of therapeutic benefit within this time period. The SPC also states that the safety and efficacy of readministration of Remicade for ulcerative colitis, other than every eight weeks, has not been established and that all patients with ulcerative colitis who are at increased risk for dysplasia or carcinoma, or who have a prior history of dysplasia or colon carcinoma, should be screened for dysplasia at regular intervals. See SPC.

Trileptal

The summary of product characteristics for Trileptal (oxcarbazepine; Novartis) has been updated to clarify that Trileptal is not recommended for children aged less than six years. Additional information has also been added regarding increased clearance of oxcarbazepine's pharmacologically active metabolite (the monohydroxyl derivative, MHD) in children aged four to 12 years when Trileptal is coadministered with carbamazepine, phenytoin or phenobarbitone. Additional information on the pharmacokinetics of Trileptal in children has also been added. See SPC.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Indomod capsules 25mg

Indomod (indometacin; Pfizer) capsules 25mg have been discontinued. Further information on 01304 645262.

Sultrin

Sultrin (sulfathiazole; Janssen-Cilag) is being discontinued from

31 March. Further information on 01494 567567.

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Emeside

Emeside (ethosuximide) capsules 250mg and syrup 250mg/5ml are now available from Chemidex Pharma. Net price, 56 capsules £38.23, syrup 200ml £6.60. Legal category: POM.

COUNTER PRODUCTS

Oilatum Junior Cream

Oilatum Junior Cream 500ml will be available from Stiefel from 17 April. Recommended retail price £9.93. Legal category: GSL.

SUPPLY ISSUES

Zarontin

Pfizer now expects Zarontin (ethosuximide) capsules to be out of stock in approximately two months' time. The company had previously said it expected stocks to last until October.

PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

Gaviscon

The following Gaviscon Tablets (Reckitt Benckiser) have been reformulated to produce a smaller tablet: Gaviscon Lemon Tablets, Gaviscon Peppermint Tablets, Gaviscon Extra Strength 500 Peppermint Tablets and Gaviscon Extra Strength 500 Lemon Tablets.

APPOINTMENTS

Directors of Public Health

Rachel Russell, MRPharmS, local public health director at Ceredigion Local Health Board, and Nicola John, MRPharmS, director of public health for Merthyr Tydfil Local Health Board, have been appointed directors of public health in Wales.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Crawford Pharmaceuticals

Healthcare Logistics will be responsible for the order processing, storage and distribution of all Crawford Pharmaceuticals products, including specials, from 3 April. After 29 March all orders should be placed directly with Healthcare Logistics. For information about the products affected, contact

RECALLED PRODUCTS

Browne water for injections

BM Browne UK is recalling a batch of 10ml ampoules of water for injections PhEur. Some of the ampoules are labelled Sodium Chloride 0.9 per cent as well as water for injections. The carton labelling is correct.

Batch number	Expiry date	Pack size	First distributed
06006-0102214	January 2008	50 x 10ml	20 February 2006

Recipients are asked to quarantine stock and return it to their suppliers for credit or replacement. All enquiries on 0118 9305333.

Martindale chloramphenicol eye ointment

Martindale Pharmaceuticals is recalling one batch of chloramphenicol 1 per cent eye ointment because a small number of tubes are labelled as Hydrocortisone Eye Ointment BPC 1 per cent but with chloramphenicol batch and expiry details. All affected tubes contain Chloramphenicol Eye Ointment BP 1 per cent and both the patient information leaflet and carton are correct for chloramphenicol eye ointment.

Batch number	Expiry date	Pack size	First distributed
621323	05/08/08	4g	13 February 2006

Recipients are asked to check their stocks of both chloramphenicol and hydrocortisone eye ointments and to quarantine any remaining stock bearing the above batch number and return it to their suppliers for credit or replacement. Customer services on 01277 266610.

Myoview vials 10ml

GE Healthcare is recalling one batch of Myoview imaging agent because gas filters used in the aseptic manufacturing process were not sterile.

Batch number	Expiry date	Strength	First distributed
1346	11/09/2006	230µg/vial	16 February 2006

Recipients are asked to quarantine any remaining stock of the above batch and return it to their supplier for credit. Medical information on 01494 542612. Customer services on 0800 558822.

Crawford Pharmaceuticals on 01908 262346 (e-mail info@crawfordpharms.co.uk).

Nigerian pharmacists

The Association of Nigerian Pharmacists (UK) is being founded as a charitable organisation. Interested pharmacists should contact the co-ordinator, Funmi Oduniyi, MRPharmS, née Olayinka, at fumken@yahoo.co.uk.

Society of Medicine, London, 3 May. Cost £387.75 (NHS and private health care organisations), £528.75 (commercial organisations). Further information on 020 8541 1399 (e-mail hayley@healthcare-events.co.uk). Website www.healthcare-events.co.uk

CORRECTIONS

New LPC

Gary Boorman said that the North East London Local Pharmaceutical Committee was "naturally disappointed" at the decision of contractors in City and Hackney Primary Care Trust to establish their own LPC and not as reported last week (*PJ*, 18 March, p309).

Jen Smyth's letter

The heading of Jen Smyth's letter should have read "Respect for a view does not mean support for that view" and not as printed (*PJ*, 11 March, p292).

FUTURE EVENTS

Nutrition in primary care

Primary Care Pharmacists Association workshop on nutrition in primary care, London 3 April, Manchester 27 April, Bristol 4 May and Birmingham 9 May. Further information on 020 8398 7349 (e-mail michelle@pharmacomm.co.uk).

Non-medical prescribing

Healthcare Events non-medical prescribing conference, Royal