

Delivery arrangements for *Hospital Pharmacist*

All hospital pharmacists working in Great Britain are entitled to receive a copy of *Hospital Pharmacist* 11 times per year. Owing to changes in postal charges, *Hospital Pharmacist* is now delivered in the same wrapper as *The Pharmaceutical Journal*. If you are not receiving *Hospital Pharmacist*, please contact Jo Cook (e-mail jo.cook@rpsgb.org, telephone 020 7572 2223), providing your name, address and Royal Pharmaceutical Society registration number.

SPC CHANGES

Invanz

The summary of product characteristics for Invanz (ertapenem; Merck Sharp & Dohme) has been updated. Invanz is now also indicated as prophylaxis for surgical site infection following elective colorectal surgery in adults. See SPC.

Lyrica

The summary of product characteristics for Lyrica (pregabalin; Pfizer) now states that Lyrica is indicated for the treatment of peripheral and central neuropathic pain in adults. See SPC.

Norvir

The summaries of product characteristics for Norvir (ritonavir; Abbott) have been updated. Information has been added to the special warnings and interactions sections of the SPCs about the risk of severe hepatotoxicity when giving saquinavir/ritonavir with rifampicin. The interactions section also now states that alfuzosin should not be co-administered with ritonavir. See SPCs.

Tavanic

The summary of product characteristics for Tavanic (levofloxacin; sanofi aventis) now states that psychotic reactions have been reported in patients receiving quinolones, including levofloxacin. In very rare cases these have progressed to suicidal thoughts and self-endangering behaviour, sometimes after only a single dose. If these reactions develop, Tavanic should be discontinued and appropriate measures instituted. Caution is recommended if Tavanic is to be used in psychotic patients or patients with a history of psychiatric disease. See SPC.

Taxotere

The summary of product characteristics for Taxotere (docetaxel; sanofi aventis) has been updated. The special warnings

section now says that patients treated with Taxotere, doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide require haematological follow-up because of the risk of delayed myelodysplasia or myeloid leukaemia. See SPC.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Frumil Forte and others

sanofi aventis has discontinued Frumil Forte (co-amilofruse), Lasoride (co-amilofruse) and Stemetil Effervescent (prochlorperazine). The following products are being discontinued but stocks remain available for a limited time: Stemetil suppositories, Stemetil tablets 25mg and Largactil (chlorpromazine hydrochloride) tablets 25mg and 50mg.

Ventodisks

Ventodisks (salbutamol; GlaxoSmithKline) dry powder Diskhaler 200µg, 400µg and refills are being discontinued. Existing stocks are expected to last until the end of October. Further information on 0800 221441.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calfovit D3

The responsibility for sales, marketing and distribution of Calfovit D3 (calcium phosphate/vitamin D₃) sachets has transferred from Trinity-Chiesi Pharmaceuticals to Menarini UK. Supplies will continue to be in the existing Trinity-Chiesi livery until Menarini packaging is introduced (expected by the end of the year). Further information on 0161 488 5521.

Permitabs

The distribution of Permitabs (potassium permanganate) has transferred from Derma UK to Alliance Pharmaceuticals. Supplies will continue to be in Derma livery until the Alliance packaging is introduced. Orders and customer service enquiries on 01249 466974. Medical information and other enquiries on 01249 466966.

APPOINTMENTS

Ben Whalley

Ben Whalley, MRPharmS, has been appointed expert member (pharmacist) on the Thames Valley Multicentre Research Ethics Committee. The appointment is for five years.

RESOURCES

"Everyday Medicines" website

AstraZeneca has launched "Everyday Medicines", a website through which patients can access information about certain medicines and set up an alert service to remind them to collect prescriptions or to take their medicines. Health care professionals can provide patients with cards giving details of the website (www.everydaymedicines.org.uk) and a password specific to each drug; a referral cards box can be obtained via <http://hcp.everydaymedicines.com>.

Positive living DVD

Bristol-Myers Squibb and the Terrence Higgins Trust have produced an educational DVD, "Positive living", for people newly diagnosed with HIV. Health care professionals can obtain copies of the DVD from Bristol-Myers Squibb on 01895 523643. Patients can contact THT on 020 7812 1600 (e-mail info@ttht.org.uk).

WANTS

Paediatric technicians

The newly formed Paediatric Pharmacy Technician Group (PPTG) would like to hear from pharmacy technicians who work in paediatrics. The group aims to facilitate the development and sharing of ideas, information, best practice and continuing professional development. Technicians who would like to know more about the group or are interested in joining can visit the PPTG website at www.pptg.co.uk or contact Pat Hayes on 020 7188 9202.

FUTURE EVENTS

CLOT study day

Clinical Leaders of Thrombosis (CLOT) study day, Birmingham, 13 October. Cost £30 (CLOT members), £50 (non-members). Further information available from caroline.baglin@addenbrookes.co.uk.

Higher level practice

National symposium entitled "Specialties, special interests and consultant pharmacists — towards higher level practice", aimed at pharmacists with special interests, chief pharmacists and consultant pharmacists, Birmingham, 15 November. Cost £246.75 (NHS delegates), £223.25 (additional delegates). Further details and bookings on 01926 863564.

Technician training

Technician training day covering schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and various medicines management issues, Copthorne Gatwick Hotel, Sussex, 20 November. Cost £75. Further details from Angie Thorn (e-mail angie.thorn@nhs.net).

PDIG symposium

Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists procurement and distribution interest group (PDIG) autumn symposium, Coventry, 2 November. Cost £95 (NHS delegates), £130 (non-NHS delegates). Application forms and further information available from Jean Fairhurst on 01727 750191 (e-mail jean.fairhurst@ntlworld.com).

Commissioning training

The University of Leeds is offering a postgraduate programme for primary care trust pharmacists, community pharmacists and other health care professionals with a provider or commissioning role. Starting in January 2007 the programme is offered at certificate, diploma or master's level and will provide theory and skills to support service commissioning and provision within the NHS. Further details from Lisa Needham on 0113 343 1350 (e-mail l.needham@leeds.ac.uk).

Numark conference

Numark 2007 conference on board the Caribbean cruise liner "Explorer of the Seas", departing from Miami, 24 February to 4 March 2007. Cost £1,599 per person (members, based on two people sharing). Further information from Betty Avill on 01827 841205.

Developing *PJ Online*

An RSS news feed is being trialled on *PJ Online*. Anyone who is interested in trying the service and commenting on it should contact the *PJ Online* web controller at webmaster@pharmj.org.uk.