

SPC CHANGES

Revatio

The summary of product characteristics for Revatio (sildenafil citrate; Pfizer) has been updated. Skin rash has been added to the list of adverse events. See SPC.

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Cefuroxime axetil

Cefuroxime axetil tablets 250mg are now available from Pliva. Net price: 14 x 250mg, £8.27. Legal category: POM.

Ciprofloxacin

Ciprofloxacin intravenous infusion 2mg/ml is now available from Pliva. Net price: 50ml, £8; 100ml, £15; 200ml, £22. Legal category: POM.

Infanrix-IPV+Hib

Infanrix-IPV+Hib (powder for suspension for injection; diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis [acellular component], poliomyelitis [inactivated] and Haemophilus type b conjugate vaccine [adsorbed]) pre-filled syringe and vial is now available from GlaxoSmithKline. Net price: 1 x 0.5ml, £27.86. Legal category: POM.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Fortum

GlaxoSmithKline is discontinuing Fortum (ceftazidime) infusion vial 2g. GSK expects stocks to be exhausted by the end of April 2007. Fortum Monovial 2g and Fortum vials for injection 250mg, 500mg, 1g, 2g and 3g remain available. Further information from GSK's customer contact centre on 0800 221441.

Becotide and Becloforte

GlaxoSmithKline has announced that Becotide 50µg, 100µg and 200µg and Becloforte 250µg metered dose inhalers will be discontinued in the third quarter of 2007. Further information from GSK's customer contact centre on 0800 221441.

COUNTER PRODUCTS

Celluvisc 0.5 per cent

Celluvisc (carmellose sodium) eye drops 0.5 per cent are now available from Allergan. Net price: 30 x 0.4ml, £5.75; 90 x 0.4ml, £15.53. Legal category: P.

Nicorette microtabs

Nicorette microtabs 2mg are now available as a general sale list medicine from Pfizer. Recommended retail price: 30, £3.57; 105; £9.84. Legal category: GSL.

DRUG TARIFF UPDATES

Moxonidine and oxybutynin hydrochloride

The Department of Health and the National Assembly for Wales have agreed to allow "no cheaper stock obtainable" (NCSO) endorsements for moxonidine tablets 200µg and oxybutynin hydrochloride tablets 2.5mg for October prescriptions.

PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

Keri products

Bristol-Myers Squibb has sold all presentations of Keri products to Novartis. Orders can now be placed with Novartis customer services on 01403 218111.

Somatuline products

Ipsen has appointed Healthcare Logistics as sole distributor for Somatuline Autogel (lanreotide) and Somatuline LA. Orders can now be placed with Healthcare Logistics on 01234 248641.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Phosphate supplements in BNF 52

The dose of phosphate in critically ill patients shown in the notes on phosphate supplements on p499 of BNF 52 has the incorrect units specified. The dose should read: "In critically ill patients, the dose of phosphate can be increased up to 500 micromol/kg (approx. 30 mmol in adults), infused over 6–12 hours, according to severity." The error will be corrected in BNF 53 (March 2007).

Trasylol

Bayer Healthcare has written to health care professionals to inform them of new prescribing advice relating to Trasylol (aprotinin). Trasylol is now only indicated for prophylactic use to reduce blood loss and blood transfusion in those patients undergoing cardiopulmonary bypass in the course of coronary artery bypass graft surgery, who are at increased risk of blood loss or blood transfusion. Renal dysfunction could be triggered by aprotinin, particularly in patients with pre-

existing renal dysfunction. In clinical studies, the majority of cases of post-operative renal dysfunction were not severe and were reversible. However, oliguria, acute renal failure and renal tubular necrosis have been reported uncommonly (< 1/100). Careful consideration to the balance of risks and benefits should be given before administering aprotinin, especially to patients at known risk of renal dysfunction (for example those taking nephrotoxic drugs).

APPOINTMENTS

Fay Langton

Fay Langton, MRPharmS, has been elected to the board of directors of British Mensa.

University of Reading

The following appointments have been made at the University of Reading School of Pharmacy: Francesca Greco, lecturer in pharmaceuticals; Rachel Howard, MRPharmS, lecturer in pharmacy practice; Clare Rawlinson, MRPharmS, lecturer in pharmacy practice; Katja Strohfeltd, lecturer in pharmaceutical chemistry; Daniel Grant, MRPharmS, teacher-practitioner (in conjunction with John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford); and Porsotam Leal, MRPharmS, teacher-practitioner.

REUNIONS

Bath centenary

Alumni of the department of pharmacy and pharmacology at the University of Bath are invited to celebrate the department's centenary on 4–7 July 2007. Further information available via www.bath.ac.uk/pharmacy/ centenary and from Maggie Pearce by e-mail (prsm@bath.ac.uk).

Welsh School of Pharmacy

Fifteen-year reunion for pharmacists who attended the Welsh School of Pharmacy from

1988 to 1991, 27 January 2007, Cardiff. Further details from Steve Williams on 01925 450305 (e-mail Steve.williams55@ntlworld.com) or Lisa Drinkwater on 01253 728384 (e-mail ljdrinkwater@yahoo.co.uk).

WANTS

Needle exchange study

Jenny Scott, lecturer in pharmacy practice, University of Bath, would like to interview pharmacists who have withdrawn from needle exchange schemes. Dr Scott is interested in pharmacists' views and experiences. The study has ethical approval, participation is confidential and the research report will be anonymous. Further information is available without obligation on 01225 385775 (e-mail j.a.scott@bath.ac.uk).

RESOURCES

Complementary medicines

The National Pharmacy Association has produced a complementary medicines resource pack for pharmacy business sponsored by Nelsons. The pack is free to NPA members and costs £25 for non-members. It is available by contacting the NPA pharmacy business unit on 01727 858687 ext 3257 (e-mail pharmacybusiness@npa.co.uk).

FUTURE EVENTS

Preregistration trainee first-aid training

First-aid training day for preregistration trainees, organised by Preregistration Training Support, 4 November, Express by Holiday Inn, North Acton, London. Cost £95. Further information from Noma Al-Ahmad on 07800 736299.

Asthma and COPD

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency event on current issues in asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Manchester, 21 November. Further information on 020 7084 2903 (e-mail mhraconference@mhra.gsi.gov.uk).

AAH convention

AAH 2007 convention entitled "Understanding tomorrow today", Singapore, 18–24 April 2007. Pharmacists interested in attending can contact the event office on 020 7420 1780.

Events

The Journal welcomes details of future events relevant to pharmacists. There is no charge for insertion of an item but The Journal is unable to guarantee insertion on any given date. Details can be sent by e-mail to notice-board@pharmj.org.uk