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Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society
of Great Britain

New CD section on Society website

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society now has a section on its website dedicated to providing information about Controlled Drugs.

It contains updated information on the current changes to the monitoring and inspection, prescribing, supply and record keeping requirements for Controlled Drugs. It outlines the changes, clarifying whether they are legislative or a matter of good practice, and provides links to further information.

The information is supplemented by links to a dozen documents giving answers to frequently asked questions on different aspects

of the changes in Controlled Drug management, plus contact details for raising queries not already covered in the FAQ documents.

The page concludes with links to relevant documents related to the Shipman Inquiry, and particularly to the inquiry's fourth report, which has led to most of the changes designed to improve the management of Controlled Drugs.

The "Controlled Drugs" section can be accessed through the "Use of medicines" page on the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/worldofpharmacy).

This week

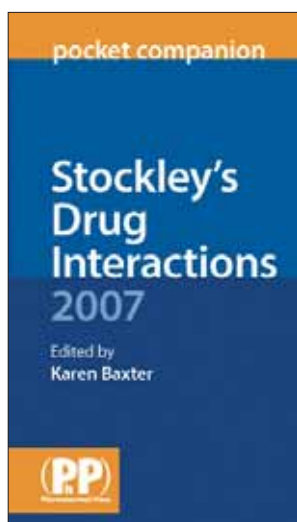
- **Controlled Drugs information**
A section dedicated to information on Controlled Drugs has been added to the Society's website (p649).
- **Paying the 2007 retention fee**
The benefits of using the online method to pay the Society's retention fee are described in an article this week (p650).

Pocket version of Stockley now available

A pocket edition of 'Stockley's drug interactions' is now available from the Pharmaceutical Press (part of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's publishing division).

'Stockley's drug interactions pocket companion 2007', edited by Karen Baxter, is designed to provide pharmacists and other health care professionals with a conveniently sized, quick-reference Stockley text. It draws on the clinically evaluated, evidence-based information on drug-drug, drug-herb and drug-food interactions that is found in the full reference work,

'Stockley's drug interactions' and follows the format of the existing Stockley products.



The 1,250-plus monographs pertaining to specific drugs or drug groups cover all the main interactions found in the full book while remaining small enough to fit in a pocket. The monographs are arranged alphabetically and cross-referenced to allow easy searching. Easy-to-use severity rating symbols offer guidance on the clinical significance of an interaction.

The PVC-bound book has 544 pages of 180mm x 100mm and costs £21.95. UK orders can be placed by telephone (01767 604 971), fax (01767 601 640) or e-mail (rps@turpin-distribution.com).

com) or through the Pharmaceutical Press website (www.pharmpress.com).

Inspector's talk in Norwich

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has announced that Susan Melvin is to give the Norwich presentation in the 2006-07 series of informal talks by inspectors for preregistration trainees (*PJ*, 21 October, p495). The Norwich session takes place on the morning of 23 March 2007.

Information about all the presentations is available from the preregistration trainees' page within the preregistration training section of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/acareerinpharmacy). Any queries about the presentations should be addressed in writing to the relevant inspector at the Society's Fitness to Practise and Legal Affairs Directorate.

Reminder: technicians must pay fees by 31 December

A reminder that registered pharmacy technicians have until 31 December 2006 to pay their retention fee for 2007 has been issued by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. The fees are £93 for practising technicians and £71 for non-practising technicians. Pharmacy technicians who do not pay before 1 January 2007 will be removed from the Register and will have to reapply for registration.

A new online payment tool using a secure area of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org) is being used for payment of fees. Technicians can sign up using their registration number and a number included on the retention form.

On signing up, a pharmacy technician sets up a password and is able to make changes to his or her e-mail addresses, if required. Once logged in, technicians can make their fee payment.

Pharmacy technicians who pay online receive instant confirmation of their payment and can download or print receipts on the working day after making payment.

Further help or information can be obtained by contacting registration@rpsgb.org.

Ayrshire branch celebrates golden jubilee

The Ayrshire branch of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society celebrated its first 50 years with a formal dinner in Troon on 26 October. The golden jubilee event attracted more than 70 pharmacists, including past chairmen and secretaries of the branch.

During the course of the evening, the Society's Secretary and Registrar, Ann Lewis, made a presentation to William Bee, who had been the first secretary of the branch, to acknowledge his outstanding contribution.

Mr Bee gave an account of the conception of the branch, set up to serve members in an

area previously covered by the former Glasgow and South-Western Scottish branch. The inaugural meeting was held at the Wallace Tower in Ayr on 31 October 1956.

A toast to the branch was proposed by the chairman of the Society's Scottish Executive, Rose Marie Parr, and the Society was toasted by branch chairman William Malcolm.

All those who attended the evening received as a memento a copy of a brief history of the branch prepared by branch secretary Andrew McLaughlin with the assistance of Mr Bee and Jack Bunten.

The collection of retention fees for 2007

As the collection of pharmacists' retention fees for 2007 kicks off, **Andrew Gardner**, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's head of registration, reviews the fee collection exercise and explains the benefits of paying the fee online

The Society is building on the success of the online payment service used by more than 21,000 people last year. As people have become more confident about using the internet to access and pay for services, so we have seen an increase in the take up of online payment. As traditional forms of payment are being phased out on the high street (we know that cheques are no longer accepted by some major supermarkets and petrol stations), it does not take a huge leap of the imagination to foresee a time when cheques will not be used at all.

So, this year, we are expanding the online service offered through the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org). Our ambition is to encourage as many people as possible to pay online because paying that way offers them some new benefits.

Perhaps the most important point to make is that people who pay online receive instant confirmation of payment. Every year we receive a few complaints from people whose names have been erased because they thought they had paid when they had not. Cheques do sometimes get lost in the post. Of course, these problems are avoided if you know your card payment has been successfully taken there and then. And remember that, although the Society is not able to accept staged payments (monthly direct debit for example), a credit card payment can be used to spread the payment over several months, which might be important to some people at this time of year.

A new feature of the online service is the ability to print, save and reprint receipts for any payment over the past year or so (available from the first working day after that payment

Pharmacists' retention fees for 2007

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Practising fee | £283 |
| Non-practising fee, Britain | £64 |
| Non-practising fee, overseas | £112 |

has been processed). Although paper receipts for retention fees, previously posted to members, are being phased out, pharmacists can now access these online, print them, and save or reprint them using the myRPSGB section of the Society's website. Even those who pay by direct debit or cheque can sign up to myRPSGB to obtain receipts.

The online payment service has been included in a password-protected area of the website, and pharmacists must set up their myRPSGB password using their registration number and retention fee form number before making payment. Of course, this only needs to be done once and will come to save time. Paying fees in the future or accessing any new online services will be simply a matter of logging into myRPSGB.

Following the Council's recent decision to erase the names of pharmacists who fail to make the required annual declaration, we have added the ability to make the declaration online using myRPSGB. Everyone who pays online will make their declaration online. People who pay by direct debit or cheque may also make their declaration online. Direct debit payers are especially encouraged to use this new facility

because they may not be accustomed to returning retention fee forms.

Pharmacy technicians are already using the myRPSGB format successfully, with over 65 per cent of them choosing to pay online.

Although planning for retention fee collection is a near year-round project, the hard work begins for the Society's registration team as soon as the fees have been agreed by the Privy Council and the retention forms are posted. Of course, while the team of Richard Anderson, James Edmonds, Alison Bartlett, Warren Chambers and Stephen Craddock are answering queries and processing payments they continue to do all the normal business activity, such as registering people and premises.

We do plan for this high volume of work, and our processes are designed to ensure payments are processed within one working day and enquiries answered within normal timeframes, but I have to take my hat off to the registration team at this time of year, when they demonstrate their commitment to the Society's members by continuing to deliver great service. In the period 1 December to 31 January 2007, they expect to handle more than 12,000 enquiries, as well as every retention fee payment.

Pharmacists in the UK should receive their retention fee forms by 2 December. The fees fall due on 1 January 2007 and can be paid now. Everyone who fails to make a payment or declaration by 12 January 2007 will be issued with a statutory demand. But please remember to pay before the deadline because the restoration fee if you are struck off for non-payment could be as much as £823.

Museum gift ideas

The Society's museum offers a range of pharmacy-related Christmas gift ideas and cards. Items for sale include replica drug jars, illustrated books on pharmacy history and packs of greetings cards and postcards. To ensure delivery by Christmas, orders must reach the museum by Wednesday 13 December.

The seven replica drug jars available are hand-finished copies of original objects held in the museum's collections. Each is supplied with an information sheet giving historical details of the original jar and its contents.

The books cover the museum's caricature collection, photographic collection and the history of the Society.

The greetings cards and postcards feature images from the museum's collections, including botanical illustrations, advertisements, photographs and cartoons.

Full details can be found on the museum's pages on the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/informationresources). The site includes images and an order form.

The jars are available by mail order by contacting the Museum Office, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2210; e-mail museum@rpsgb.org). The jars, books and cards can also be bought in person from the library at the Society's London headquarters.



The seven replica drug jars available from the museum

Law and ethics bulletin

Preventing NHS fraud

Pharmacists are reminded of the need to ensure that any payment claims for NHS services are truthful and accurate. Making a false claim for payment may constitute a criminal offence or professional misconduct or both.

Prescription endorsements Pharmacists are advised to ensure that all prescription endorsements are accurate so that the pack size and quantities endorsed correctly reflect the supply made. Particular caution should be exercised when using an automatic endorsing system that may default to the smallest pack size available. The Society is aware of a number of incidences in which endorsements for small packs of a product were inaccurately and/or dishonestly made and large pack sizes dispensed.

Medicines use review (MUR) Pharmacists must ensure that they do not claim payment for more than the maximum number of MURs that they are entitled to undertake and that claims are not being made for consultations that would not be classed as an MUR. If pharmacists are in any doubt as to what claims they are entitled to make they should contact their local primary care organisation.

Other professional services Pharmacists should ensure that when providing locally agreed NHS services, eg, smoking cessation, payment claims accurately reflect the type and level of service provided.

Patient declaration Pharmacists are reminded to check that the declaration on the back of the prescription form has been filled in correctly. When a patient (or his or her representative) declares an exemption from prescription charges, the pharmacist is required to check for evidence of this, except where a patient is exempt due to age and the date of birth is computer-generated on the prescription.

The Society does not encourage pharmacists to sign the declaration on behalf of a patient unless fully satisfied as to the patient's identity and exemption status. A false declaration made by the pharmacist, whether knowingly or as a result of failure to check a patient's exemption, may constitute a criminal offence or professional misconduct or both. In addition incorrect declarations made by a pharmacist may result in the patient being subject to a criminal investigation.

Counterfeit and stolen prescriptions Finally, pharmacists are reminded of the pharmaceutical reward scheme, whereby a pharmacist who identifies and reports a fraudulent or stolen NHS prescription will receive a monetary reward. In detecting such prescriptions, pharmacists are helping to reduce and deter patient prescription fraud. Any pharmacist who believes that he or she is eligible for this reward in England should contact the NHS Counter Fraud Service on freephone 0800 068 6161. In Wales, please contact Health Solutions Wales on 029 2050 0500.

Both the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and the NHS Counter Fraud Service are committed to developing counter fraud techniques and sharing information to crack down on those defrauding the NHS. To highlight this commitment, the Society and the NHS Counter Fraud Service have agreed a memorandum of understanding formalising the working relationship between the two organisations.

Homoeopathy and malaria prophylaxis

Following the recent media coverage regarding the use of homoeopathic remedies for malaria prophylaxis, pharmacists must ensure that patients who request homoeopathic or herbal remedies to prevent malaria are aware of the risks of not taking recognised antimalarial medicines.

The Faculty of Homeopathy and the Health Protection Agency's advisory committee on malaria prevention do not recommend patients to rely on any homoeopathic or herbal remedies for the prevention of malaria as there is no scientific proof that these are effective in preventing malaria.

Although it is for individual patients to make decisions about their health care, pharmacists have an important role in ensuring that these decisions are informed, and that patients have access to necessary information to assist their decisions.

Pharmacists are well placed to discuss fears that patients may have about taking their medicines and should encourage patients to use appropriate preventive measures. Advice on preventing or avoiding bites should also be provided to patients who are travelling to regions where they may be susceptible to malaria. This advice should include wearing long sleeved clothing and long trousers if outdoors after sunset and using mosquito repellents and nets.

Further comments on the issue of homoeopathy and immunisation can be obtained from the Faculty of Homeopathy, Hahnemann House, 29 Park Street West, Luton LU1 3BE (tel 0870 444 3950; fax 0870 444 3960).

Also provided for further assistance are the link to the Health Protection Agency website (www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/malaria/default.htm), which contains guidance on prophylaxis, and the link to the advisory committee on malaria prevention homoeopathic statement (www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/malaria/homoeopathic_statement_260705.htm).

The guidance issued above has been endorsed by the Health Protection Agency and the Faculty of Homeopathy.

Methadone oral solution

Pharmacists are advised to exercise caution when dispensing methadone oral solution. There is the potential for confusion to occur between different strengths. Methadone oral solution is available in various strengths: 0.4mg/ml; 1mg/ml; 10mg/ml; 20mg/ml.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society is aware of occasions where the wrong strength of methadone has erroneously been supplied to a patient.

Pharmacists should have in place procedures for recording dispensing errors and near misses.

The Society guidance on dealing with dispensing errors can be found at www.rpsgb.org/pdfs/restooldealdisperr.pdf. This guidance also gives a link to the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee website, which has an error log template that was devised in conjunction with the National Patient Safety Agency.

The Society has also produced a near miss error log, which can be located at www.rpsgb.org/pdfs/restoolnearmiss.pdf. The advisory service of the Society's Fitness to Practise and Legal Affairs Directorate has also produced a fact sheet entitled "Dealing with dispensing errors", which can be found at www.rpsgb.org.

DEATHS

Goodhew On 21 October, Wendy Goodhew, RegPharmTech, aged 39, of 19 Kennet Drive, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 3RH. Mrs Goodhew registered in 2006.

King On 5 November, Herta Franzicka King, aged 86, formerly of 265 Blossomfield Road, Solihull, West Midlands. Mrs King registered in 1949 and retired from the Register in 2005.

Neal On 5 September, John Lancaster Neal, MRPharmS, aged 75, of Tinley Barn, Coach Road, Sleights, Whitby, North Yorkshire YO22 5EQ. Mr Neal registered in 1956.

DIARY

Headquarters meetings

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

Wednesday 29 November

Industrial Pharmacists Group. 10am.

Local meetings

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

Monday 27 November

Bury and Rochdale "Update on hormone replacement therapy and osteoporosis" by Robert Hallworth (specialist pharmaceutical adviser, Stockport Primary Care Trust). Village Hotel, Bury. 7.30 for 8pm.
Haliifax "Medicines management from the prescribing support unit" by Sue Faulding (senior pharmaceutical adviser, prescribing support unit). Learning and Development Centre, Calderdale Royal Hospital. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Tuesday 28 November

Ayrshire Visit to GlaxoSmithKline plant, Irvine. 7pm.
Bristol "Benign prostatic hypertrophy and prostate cancer" by Tim Whittlestone (consultant urologist, Bristol Royal Infirmary). BAWA, Southmead Road, Filton. 7.30 for 8pm.
Croydon "Current affairs: Pharmacy 2020" by Douglas Simpson (member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Council). Postgraduate Medical Centre, Mayday Hospital. Buffet. 8pm.
Harrow and Hillingdon "Asthma". Cumberland Hotel, Harrow. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Wednesday 29 November

Crawley, Horsham and Reigate "Medicine use reviews in practice" by Niall Murray (community

pharmacist). Postgraduate Medical Centre, Crawley Hospital, West Green Drive, Crawley. 7.30 for 8pm.
West Metropolitan "Local management of pandemic flu" by Chris Corfield. Irish Centre, Blacks Road, Hammersmith. Buffet 7pm, meeting 8pm.

Thursday 30 November

Buckinghamshire "Sexually transmitted infections: everything you needed to know but were afraid to ask". Herons Lodge Guide Centre, Bradwell Road, Loughton, Milton Keynes. Buffet 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

Tuesday 5 December

Barnet "First aid for pharmacists" by Brian Smith (first aid trainer and assessor, St John Ambulance). Education and Information Centre, Barnet Hospital. Hot meal 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.
Brighton "AIDS and HIV" by Heather Leake (principal pharmacist, HIV/sexual health, Brighton and Sussex University Hospital). Audrey Emerton Education Centre, Eastern Road, Brighton. Supper 7pm (advise secretary if you wish to eat), meeting 8pm.
Dudley and Stourbridge "Coeliac disease" by Rachael Wright (dietitian). Dudley Clinical Education Centre, First Floor, Block C, Russells Hall Hospital. Seasonal refreshments and gluten free tasting session. 8pm.
Northern Scottish "Peer review of pharmacist prescribing" by Colin Costello (principal clinical pharmacist, NHS Highland). Marriott Hotel, Inverness. 7.30pm.
Oxfordshire "Sexual health" by a Harrison Unit specialist (Radcliffe Infirmary). George Pickering Postgraduate Centre, Level 3, John Radcliffe Hospital. 7.30 for 8pm.
Stirling and Central Scottish "Safety and security in the pharmacy" with presentations and workshops on dealing with crime, violence and aggression in the workplace. Stirling

Royal Infirmary, Conference Centre. Buffet 6.30pm, meeting 7pm.
Teesside "Challenging pain" by Keith Milligan (pain management consultant, James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough). Swallow Hotel, Stockton on Tees. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Wednesday 6 December

West Cumberland Quiz night (quizmaster Garyth Orton). Hundhill Hotel, near Cockermouth. 7.30pm followed by bar supper.

Thursday 7 December

Bolton "National Patient Safety Agency and the relationship with pharmacy" by Linda Matthew (patient safety manager, Greater Manchester, NPSA). Education

Centre, Royal Bolton Hospital. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.
Colchester "Wound interactive products: local guidelines" by Marion Lazenby (lead nurse, wound management team, North East Essex Primary Care Trust). Postgraduate Centre, Colchester General Hospital. 7.30 for 8pm.
Lanarkshire "The media and NHS" by David Steele (communications manager, NHS Lanarkshire). Hilton Strathclyde Hotel, Bellshill. 8pm.
Manchester, Salford and Trafford "Falls service" by Helen Hosker (primary care physician, elderly service development, Central Manchester Primary Care Trust). Platt Lane Complex, Yew Tree Road, Fallowfield. Light refreshments 7pm, meeting 7.30pm.

Royal Pharmaceutical Society and Swedish Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Residential course: Pharmacokinetic–pharmacodynamic data analysis

- **Dates:** Sunday 20 May (5pm) to Thursday 24 May 2007
- **Venue:** Madingley Hall, Cambridge
- **Content:** Advanced workshop providing an interface between the computer analysis of pharmacokinetic (PK) and pharmacodynamic (PD) data and physiological concepts. Based on the background and concepts provided by the course lecturers, delegates will apply this information to the WinNonlin modelling package. The course includes access to the computer package to undertake hands-on exercises on real-life case studies and availability of course tutors to help in problem solving.
- **Delegates:** Advanced level research scientists in the pharmaceutical industry, academia, regulatory agencies and contract research firms with at least three years'

experience in PK/PD analyses and modelling; participants who have attended the earlier introductory workshop; researchers with a working knowledge of WinNonlin who wish learn about its advanced features

- **Course fee:** Members of the organising bodies and the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences of Great Britain £1,840 + VAT, non-members £1,900 + VAT. Includes four nights' accommodation, meals and course documentation
- **Further information:** Julie Churchill, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN. Tel 020 7572 2261; fax 020 7572 2506; e-mail science@rpsgb.org. A course brochure and booking form can be downloaded from the "Events and meetings" page of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org/worldofpharmacy).



Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

London headquarters
Switchboard 020 7735 9141; 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
Information pharmacists, 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 in pharmaceutics
020 7572 2302; fax 020 7572 2499; e-mail pharmaceutics@rpsgb.org

Benevolent fund
Financial help for pharmacists and their dependants and information about convalescence 01327 264739 or 01323 890135

Pharmacists' health support programme
Confidential help and support for pharmacists who experience problems with alcohol and other drugs of addiction 01327 264531

Listening friends scheme
Help from pharmacists trained in dealing with stress 020 7572 2442

Pharmaceutical press
Purchase of books and subscriptions to journals 01767 604971; fax 01767 601640; rps@turpin-distribution.com; website www.pharmpress.com