

RECALLED PRODUCTS**Rabipur**

Novartis Vaccines is recalling the following batches of Rabipur (rabies vaccine) packs containing a single dose vial, diluent ampoule, syringe and needle because in a few instances the seam around the blister containing the syringe and needle is not intact and so sterility of the syringe and needle cannot be guaranteed.

Batch number	Expiry date	First distributed
400011A	September 2009	August 2006
402011A	August 2009	September 2006

Recipients should not use or further distribute any of the affected batches and should return them to their supplier. Medical information on 01865 782800. Customer services on 08457 451500.

SPC CHANGES**Co-Diovan**

The summary of product characteristics for Co-Diovan (valsartan/hydrochlorothiazide; Novartis) has been updated. It now states that when angiotensin II antagonists are administered simultaneously with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, attenuation of the antihypertensive effect may occur. It also now says that concomitant use of angiotensin II antagonists and NSAIDs may lead to an increased risk of worsening renal function, including possible acute renal failure and an increase in serum potassium, especially in patients with poor pre-existing renal function, that this combination should be administered with caution, especially in the elderly, and that patients should be adequately hydrated and consideration should be given to monitoring renal function after initiation of concomitant therapy, and periodically thereafter. See SPC.

Diovan

The summary of product characteristics for Diovan (valsartan; Novartis) has been updated. It now states that when angiotensin II antagonists are administered simultaneously with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, attenuation of the antihypertensive effect may occur, that the combination should be administered with caution, especially in the elderly, and that patients should be adequately hydrated and consideration should be given to monitoring renal function after initiation of concomitant therapy, and periodically thereafter. It also now says that reversible increases in serum lithium concentrations and toxicity have been reported during concomitant administration of

lithium with angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors and with angiotensin II receptor antagonists. Co-administration of lithium and valsartan should be undertaken with caution and, if this combination proves essential, serum lithium level monitoring is recommended during concomitant use. See SPC.

Hydrea

The summary of product characteristics for Hydrea (hydroxycarbamide; Bristol-Myers Squibb) has been updated. It now states that cutaneous vasculitic toxicities, including vasculitic ulcerations and gangrene, have occurred in patients with myeloproliferative disorders during therapy with hydroxycarbamide. There have also been changes made to the handling requirements. See SPC.

Lyrinel XL

The summary of product characteristics for Lyrinel XL (oxybutynin; Janssen-Cilag) has been updated. It now includes an indication for children over the age of six years for "the symptomatic treatment of hyper-reflexia secondary to a neurologic condition". The initial dose for this indication is 5mg once a day, increased in 5mg increments to a maximum of 15mg once a day. See SPC.

Vfend

The summary of product characteristics for Vfend (voriconazole; Pfizer) has been updated to include additional information about co-administration of Vfend with efavirenz. See SPC.

Zometa

The summary of product characteristics for Zometa (zoledronic acid; Novartis) contains additional information

regarding bone pain reduction. See SPC.

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS**Cosopt**

Cosopt (dorzolamide/timolol) preservative-free eye drop solution is now available from Merck Sharp & Dohme. Net price: 60 single-dose containers, £28.59. Legal category: POM.

Cubicin

Cubicin (daptomycin) powder 500mg for concentrate for solution for infusion is now available from Novartis. Net price: £88.57. Legal category: POM.

Enbrel

Enbrel (etanercept) is now available as a 50mg solution for injection in pre-filled syringe and as a 25mg/ml powder and solvent for injection for paediatric use. Net price: 4 x 50mg solution, £715; 4 x 25mg powder and solvent, £357.50. Legal category: POM.

Tradorec XL

Tradorec XL (tramadol hydrochloride) tablets 100mg, 200mg and 300mg are now available from Recordati Pharmaceuticals. Net price: 30 x 100mg, £14.10; 30 x 200mg, £14.98; 30 x 300mg, 22.47. Legal category: POM.

Zyprexa

Zyprexa (olanzapine) tablets 20mg are now available from Eli Lilly. Net price: 28, £158.90.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS**Humatrope**

Eli Lilly will be discontinuing Humatrope (somatotropin) cartridges 6mg, 12mg and 24mg on 31 December. Humatrope reconstituted cartridges 6mg, 12mg and 24mg will continue to be available. Further information on 01256 315999.

Menogon

Ferring Pharmaceuticals will be discontinuing Menogon (menotrophin) on 31 December. Further information on 01753 214800.

Pancrease

Janssen-Cilag has discontinued Pancrease (pancreatin). The company expects stocks to be exhausted by January 2007. Further information on 01494 567567.

PRODUCTS MISCELLANY**Angettes**

Bristol-Myers Squibb has decided to change the packaging of Angettes (aspirin) from bottles to blisters. There has been no change to the formulation of the tablets. Further information on 0800 7311736.

Comtess

Comtess (entacapone; Orion) tablets 200mg have been reformulated into oval tablets, 13.7mm x 6.4 mm, brownish orange in colour and embossed with "COMT". The amount of active ingredient in the tablets remains unchanged and the tablets are bioequivalent to the previous formulation of Comtess. Further information on 01635 520300.

Gyno-Daktarin

Finger stall administration devices will not be supplied in Gyno-Daktarin (miconazole) vaginal capsule 1.2g packs due for production in early 2007.

Nebido

The shelf life of Nebido (testosterone undecanoate; Schering) has been extended from three years to five years.

Nipent

Wyeth has returned the marketing and distribution rights for Nipent (pentostatin) to EuroGen (the marketing authorisation holder for Nipent in the UK). Orders for deliveries must now be placed with DHL Exel Supply Chain (tel 01295 228862, fax 01295 228826). Medical information enquiries should be directed to EuroGen on 01242 703646.

OxyContin and OxyNorm

Napp has changed its packaging for OxyContin (oxycodone hydrochloride) and OxyNorm (oxycodone hydrochloride). It has altered the printing on the pack foils and added a tamper resistant seal and a section on the back of the pack for patients to note the time their medications should be taken.

Contact us

Notice-board welcomes information relevant to pharmacists. There is no charge for inclusion of an item but *The Journal* is unable to guarantee a particular publication date. Information can be e-mailed to notice-board@pharmj.org.uk

Temodal capsules

Temodal (temozolomide) capsules now come in different colours with their strengths printed in black. The colours of Temodal capsules are: green (5mg), yellow (20mg), pink (100mg) and white (250mg).

ANNOUNCEMENTS**BNF Ivax e-mail address**

BNF 52 (p868) shows an incorrect e-mail address for IVAX Pharmaceuticals. Queries to IVAX should instead be made by post, telephone or fax.

Triiodothyronine injection

Following a recall of Goldshield Triiodothyronine (liothyronine) injection (*PJ*, 18 Nov, p605), stock of triiodothyronine injection 20µg batch number 05421 held at the company's distribution centre has been re-assayed and given an expiry date of 31 January 2007. The packs of five vials have been over-labelled to indicate the revised expiry date and have been given a batch number 05421/R. Vials within the packs have not been re-labelled and any vials that are separated from the pack must be labelled with the new expiry date. The product is now available for hospitals to order directly from Distriphar. Packs will be provided on a sale or return basis. New product will be available by the end of January 2007.

AWARDS**Ask About Medicines**

Ask About Medicines Awards for Excellence 2007 will be made in six categories: providing medicines information to medicine users and the public; improving communication between health care professionals and patients or medicines users; use of electronic communication; reaching diverse populations; communicating with carers or non-health care professionals working with patients or medicines users; and Ask About Medicines Week activities. Further information and entry forms are available online (www.askaboutmedicines.org/awards) or by telephoning 01225 333838 or e-mailing awards@askaboutmedicines.org. Closing date 7 March 2007.

Pharmacy writing awards

Radcliffe Publishing's Pharmacy Awards are open to pharmacists who have proposals for new texts and references in education or

practice, especially in areas of particular need. Awards of £250 will be made in two categories: study guides and revision aids for students; and formularies and similar references. Further information is available by e-mailing Andrew Bax (abax@radcliffemed.com). Closing date 28 February 2007.

APPOINTMENTS**Simon Mackay**

Simon Mackay, MRPharmS, has been appointed professor of medicinal chemistry at the Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences.

**ABOUT PEOPLE****Amanda Plummer**

Amanda Plummer, MRPharmS, clinical pharmacy services manager at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, has become the first graduate of the University of Bradford's DPharm programme.

Shailesh Thakrar

Shailesh Thakrar, MRPharmS, was named community partner of the year at Kensington and Chelsea Primary Care Trust's 2006 "Health superstars" awards.

Sheridan Teal

Local Care Direct has named its new call centre in Bradley after local pharmacist Sheridan Teal who died this year (*PJ*, 15 April, p494).

REUNIONS**Brighton 1997**

Mark Beddis is organising a 10-year reunion for pharmacists who graduated from the University of Brighton in 1997. The reunion will take place in Brighton on 17 March 2007. Anyone interested in attending can contact Mr Beddis on +353 876311039 (e-mail mbeddis@gmail.com).

WANTS**Young health researcher award sponsors**

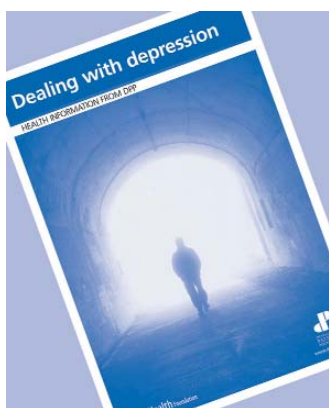
Audrey Clarissa, president of the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation, would like to hear from any organisations or people interested in sponsoring the Young Health Researcher Award, a joint initiative by the IPSE, Council on Health Research for Development and International Federation of Medical Students' Association. The award is designed to support health researchers in low-income countries who are under 35 years of age or who graduated less than seven years ago. Ms Clarissa can be contacted on +62 8122033707 or +31 621285360 (e-mail au2dee@yahoo.com).

RESOURCES**Cancer patient information pathways**

The NHS Cancer Services Collaborative Improvement Partnership has developed a set of national patient information pathways for different types of cancer. They are available via www.cancerimprovement.nhs.uk/patinfopath.

Depression

Developing Patient Partnerships has produced a booklet entitled "Dealing with depression" which offers information, advice and support to patients with depression and their family and friends. Cost: 125 booklets, £70.50. Ordering information available at www.dpp.org.uk.

**Epilepsy**

Various information booklets for people with epilepsy are available from Epilepsy Action at www.epilepsy.org.uk/downloads. Patients can obtain copies of the booklets by contacting the epilepsy helpline on 0808 800 5050.

Ethnicity and health

The Specialist Library for Ethnicity and Health is now available through the National Library for Health, providing information relevant to minority ethnic groups and cultures present in Britain (www.library.nhs.uk/ethnicity).

GMP/GCP interface

Clinical trial pharmacists wanting a copy of a slide presentation by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency describing regulatory inspection findings at the good manufacturing practice/good clinical practice interface should send an email to Maggie Searle (maggie.searle@lcg-bourn.co.uk).

FUTURE EVENTS**Health partnerships**

Centaur Conference meeting, entitled "Health partnerships – delivering new partnerships in local healthcare", London, 6–7 February 2007. Cost: public sector, £997.58 (£880.08 before 22 December); private sector £1408.83 (£1291.33 before 22 December). Further information on 020 7940 4770 and at www.centaurconferences.co.uk/health.ashx.

CHRISTMAS CLOSURES**Solvay Healthcare**

Solvay Healthcare medical information will be closed from lunchtime on 22 December until 9am on 2 January 2007. The company's out-of-hours service will be available for urgent medical enquiries on 02380 467000 throughout this period. Orders for delivery before 25 December should be placed by 3pm on 20 December and those for delivery before 1 January 2007 should be placed by noon on 27 December.

CORRECTIONS**David Shenton's letter**

David Shenton's letter, "A declaration on non-practising status" (*PJ*, 25 November, p637), should have read "Rules relating to Registration", in place of "Section 60 Order", and "that document", in place of "the Order".

Champix

The Champix (varenicline; Pfizer) 56-tablet maintenance pack contains 0.5mg tablets and not 1mg tablets, as stated.