

Hospital Pharmacist conference

The *Hospital Pharmacist* 10th conference and exhibition "Medicines management in the spotlight — learning from the health check" will take place on 1 February in London (www.pjonline.com/reports/hp/index.html).

A limited number of places are still available and students and preregistration trainees can register at a special rate of £20. Further information is available from Emma Kerby-Evans on 020 7572 2414 (e-mail emma.kerby-evans@pharmj.org.uk).

SPC CHANGES

Abilify

The summaries of product characteristics for Abilify (aripiprazole; Bristol-Myers Squibb/Otsuka) now include additional information in the special warnings sections about cardiovascular disorders, conduction abnormalities, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, hyperglycaemia and diabetes mellitus, weight gain and dysphagia. The interactions sections now say that caution should be used when administering aripiprazole concomitantly with medicines known to cause QT prolongation or electrolyte imbalance. See SPCs.

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

CoAprovel

CoAprovel (irbesartan/hydrochlorothiazide) film-coated tablets 300/25mg are now available from Bristol-Myers Squibb and sanofi-aventis. Net price: 28, £16.91. Legal category: POM.

Episenta

Episenta (sodium valproate) solution for injection 300mg/3ml is now available from Beacon Pharmaceuticals. Net price: 5 ampoules, £35. Legal category: POM.

Finacea

Finacea (azelaic acid 15 per cent) gel is now available from Valeant Pharmaceuticals. Net price: 30g, £7.48. Legal category: POM.

Risperdal Quicklet

Risperdal Quicklet (risperidone) orodispersible tablets are now available from Janssen-Cilag. Net price: 28 × 3mg, £50.34; 28 × 4mg, £64.84. Legal category: POM.

Suboxone

Suboxone (buprenorphine/naloxone) sublingual tablets are now available from Schering-Plough. Net price: 28 × 2mg/0.5mg, £26.88; 28 × 8mg/2mg, £80.64. Legal category: CD (schedule 3).

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Debrisan

Debrisan (dextranomer; Pfizer) beads have been discontinued. Stocks are expected to be exhausted by the end of March.

Gallamine triethiodide

Concord Pharmaceuticals will discontinue gallamine triethiodide injection 10 × 80mg/2ml on 31 January.

SUPPLY ISSUES

Minulet

Wyeth is experiencing problems supplying Minulet (gestodene 75µg, ethinylestradiol 30µg) tablets 3 × 21. Medical information on 01628 415330, customer services on 0845 850 5544.

PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

Dermax Therapeutic Shampoo

Dermax Therapeutic Shampoo (benzalkonium chloride 0.5 per cent w/w) 250ml is now available from Dermal Laboratories. Net price: £5.95. Recommended retail price: £10.49. Legal category: P.

Hypromellose

Moorfields Hypromellose eye drops 0.3 per cent (preservative free) are now available in single-use ampoules. Net price: 30 × 0.4ml, £5.75. Legal category: P.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Diftavax

Diftavax (adsorbed diphtheria [low dose] and tetanus vaccine for

RECALLED PRODUCTS

Predfoam

Forest Laboratories is recalling the following batches of Predfoam (prednisolone equivalent to 20mg per metered dose) foam aerosol 14-dose packs because the cans have been incorrectly assembled and a high proportion fail to deliver any foam.

Batch number	Expiry date	First distributed
18000	May 2010	6 October 2006
18406	September 2010	14 December 2006

Recipients are requested to quarantine any remaining stock and return it to their supplier for credit. Medical information and stock return enquiries on 01322 550550.

adults and adolescents) was discontinued by sanofi pasteur MSD in January 2006. Diftavax is now unavailable and adsorbed diphtheria [low dose], tetanus and inactivated poliomyelitis vaccine (Revaxis; sanofi pasteur MSD) is now recommended by the Department of Health. Further information at www.spmsd.co.uk.

Dopamine agonists

The European Pharmacovigilance Working Party has reviewed the available data on the following dopamine agonists: levodopa (in combination with carbidopa, benserazide or entacapone), α -dihydroergocryptine, apomorphine, bromocriptine, cabergoline, lisuride, pergolide, piribedil, pramipexole, quinagolide, rotigotine and ropinirole. Evidence from spontaneous reports and scientific literature suggests that pathological gambling and increased libido, including hypersexuality, may be class effects of dopamine agonists, especially at high doses, generally reversible upon reduction of the dose or treatment discontinuation. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has requested that marketing authorisation holders for all dopamine agonists for all indications, including restless legs syndrome, endocrine disorders and Parkinson's disease, update their summaries of product characteristics accordingly.

RESOURCES

Label translation

Rx-info has launched a website providing pharmacists with common dispensing labels in 13 languages. A program which allows the labels to be printed in the pharmacy is available to download free of charge from the website (www.translabel.co.uk).

FUTURE EVENTS

Health partnerships

Public Private Finance conference "Health partnerships — delivering new partnerships in local healthcare", London, 6–7 February. Cost, £849 (public sector), £1,199 (private sector). Further details on 020 7970 4770 (e-mail enquiries@centaurconferences.co.uk), online booking via www.centaurconferences.co.uk/health.ashx.

Responsible pharmacist

The Department of Health and Primary Care Contracting are hosting a series of consultation events for pharmacists and other stakeholders to find out about the legislative changes introduced by the Health Act 2006 and proposals for implementing those changes. The events provide an opportunity to discuss and put forward views on the development of the regulations relating to the responsible pharmacist. York, 19 February; London, 20 February; Manchester, 23 February; Birmingham, 2 March; Newport, Wales, 9 March; Stirling, Scotland, 20 March; County Antrim, Northern Ireland, 28 March. Further details and online booking via www.pcc.nhs.uk/events.

Critical care

UK Clinical Pharmacy Association critical care group study day, "Starting out in critical care", London, 27 February. Cost £115 (members), £180 (non-members). Further information from Marie Matthews on 0116 277 6999 (e-mail admin@ukcpa.com).

Choosing health

Conference on the implementation of "Choosing health through pharmacy — a programme for pharmaceutical public health", London, 27 February. Further details and online booking via www.pcc.nhs.uk/events.

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