

SPC CHANGES

Actos

The summary of product characteristics for Actos (pioglitazone; Takeda) now includes an additional indication for combination with insulin for patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus who have insufficient glycaemic control on insulin and for whom metformin is inappropriate because of contraindications or intolerance. The SPC states that, for this indication, the current insulin dose can be continued upon initiation of Actos therapy and that if patients report hypoglycaemia, the dose of insulin should be decreased. The SPC also now states that Actos can cause fluid retention, which may exacerbate or precipitate heart failure. Patients with at least one risk factor for the development of congestive heart failure should start on the lowest available dose of Actos and the dose should be increased gradually. Concomitant administration of insulin and Actos may increase the risk of oedema. Patients should be observed for signs and symptoms of heart failure, weight gain or oedema when Actos is used in combination with insulin, and Actos should be discontinued if any deterioration in cardiac status occurs. Information has been added to the undesirable effects and pharmacological properties sections to reflect the new indication. See SPC.

Yasmin

The summary of product characteristics for Yasmin (drospirenone, ethinylestradiol; Schering) has been updated. The section describing changing from a progestogen-only method of contraception has been expanded to include progestogen-only pill, injection, implant or intrauterine system. The advice for action in response to gastrointestinal disturbances has been amended. The SPC now states that in women on chronic treatment with hepatic enzyme-inducing active substances, another reliable, non-hormonal, method of contraception is recommended. See SPC.

Primolut N

The summary of product characteristics for Primolut N (norethisterone; Schering) now states that patients with hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, the Lapp lactase

deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take Primolut N. See SPC.

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Contiflo XL

Contiflo XL (tamulosin) capsules are now available from Ranbaxy. Net price: 30 × 400µg, £8.50. Legal category: POM.

Humira

Humira (adalimumab) pre-filled pen is now available from Abbott. Net price: 2 × 40mg, £715. Legal category: POM.

PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

Oilatum

Stiefel's Oilatum Junior Bath Formula and Oilatum Fragrance Free (Junior) emollient bath additives have both been renamed Oilatum Junior Emollient Bath Additive. The change applies to Oilatum Junior Bath Formula 150ml and 300ml and Oilatum Fragrance Free (Junior) 250ml, 500ml and 1,000ml. Further information is available on 01628 524966.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Floxapen

GlaxoSmithKline has discontinued Floxapen (flucloxacillin) 100 × 500mg capsules. The company expects stocks of the product to be exhausted by the end of April. Further information is available on 0800 221441.

Imigran

GlaxoSmithKline has discontinued Imigran Subject (sumatriptan) pre-filled syringes 6 × 0.5ml refill packs. The company expects stocks to be exhausted by the end of February. Further information is available on 0800 221441.

Micronor HRT

Janssen-Cilag will discontinue Micronor HRT (norethisterone) at the end of February. Further information is available 01494 567567.

APPOINTMENTS

Karen Hassell

Karen Hassell has been appointed to a new chair in social pharmacy at the University of Manchester's school of pharmacy.

John McAnaw



John McAnaw, MRPharmS, has been appointed head of pharmacy for NHS24.

Angus McNicoll

Angus McNicoll, MRPharmS, has been appointed care services manager at Davidsons Chemists.

Luigi Martini

Luigi Martini, MRPharmS, worldwide director of process technologies for GlaxoSmithKline pharmaceutical development, has been appointed visiting lecturer in pharmaceuticals at the pharmacy department of King's College, London.

ABOUT PEOPLE

IPC committee

John Kerridge, MRPharmS, Michael Murray, MRPharmS, Jane Nicholson, FRPharmS, Michael Parker, MRPharmS, Melvyn Smith, MRPharmS, and Stephen Wicks, FRPharmS, have been elected members of the committee of the Independent Pharmacists Group of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Osteonecrosis with CART

The European Medicine Agency's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) has advised that information regarding osteonecrosis should be included in sections 4.4 (special warnings) and 4.8 (undesirable effects) of the summaries of product characteristics of all antiretroviral medicinal products. SPCs are being updated with the following statement: "Although the aetiology is considered to be multifactorial (including corticosteroid use, alcohol consumption, severe immunosuppression, higher body

mass index), cases of osteonecrosis have been reported, particularly in patients with advanced HIV disease and/or long-term exposure to combination antiretroviral therapy (CART). Patients should be advised to seek medical advice if they experience joint aches and pain, joint stiffness or difficulty in movement."

RESOURCES

Patient groups

"The handbook of patient groups 2006-07" provides contact information for 301 patient groups in the UK and details of donations made to the groups by pharmaceutical companies. It is available for purchase (£18.95) via www.binleys.com.

FUTURE EVENTS

Exploratory development

Health Network congress on exploratory clinical development, London, 21-22 February. Further information is available via www.healthnetworkcommunications.com.

Patient information

Patient Information Forum conference, "Effective health information — the key issues", London, 28 February. Cost £209 (PiF members), £255 (non-members). Further information is available on 020 8541 1399 ([website www.healthcare-events.co.uk](http://www.healthcare-events.co.uk)).

Dermatology

British Association of Dermatologists, senior skin group spring meeting, entitled "So you think you know about elderly skin?", 15 March, London. Cost £65. Full details can be obtained by leaving a message with an evening telephone number with Roger Woodford on 023 9237 4768.

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.

From March, items received before 1pm on Monday will be considered for publication in that week's *Journal*. Information can be e-mailed to notice-board@pharmj.org.uk

Correction

Due to an administrative error, the item on the Industrial Pharmacists' Group committee lists current members of the committee and not newly elected members.