



Bogus calls

Market researchers, masquerading as employees of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society or *The Journal*, have been telephoning pharmacists asking for personal details and information about the work they do. The researchers will leave a telephone number, but these calls are not genuine. If you are suspicious of a caller's identity, ask for a name and make contact with the caller via the Society's switchboard (020 7735 9141) or at *The Journal* (020 7572 2414).

SPC CHANGES

Dalacin C

Dysgeusia, oesophageal ulcers and toxic epidermal necrolysis are now included as additional adverse events in the summaries of product characteristics for Dalacin C (clindamycin; Pfizer) capsules and sterile solution for injection. The SPC for Dalacin C capsules also now states that no dosage modification is necessary for patients with renal or hepatic insufficiency.

PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

Methotrexate

Methotrexate sodium tablets 2.5mg will be available from Goldshield in packs of 24 tablets towards the end of June. Packs of 28 tablets will be discontinued. Net price: 24 x 2.5mg, £3.27. Legal category: POM.

ABOUT PEOPLE

David Samways Award

Peter Sharott, FRPharmS, director of specialist pharmacy services for east and south-east England, was presented with the inaugural David

Samways award at the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists' Procurement and Distribution Interest Group summer symposium in Coventry last week. The award recognises achievement in medicines procurement and is named in honour of David Samways, who died this year (*PJ*, 24 February, p231).

Independent prescribing

The following pharmacists have recently completed Keele University's independent prescribing conversion course: Rebecca Aaron, Mohammed Ahmed, Noel Aslett, Avninder Bhogal, Karen Ennis, Thomas Goodwin, David Harris, Parbir Jagpal, Christopher Love, Hemant Patel, Hitesh Patel and Robert Saunders.

APPOINTMENTS

PSNC communications

Dipen Shah, MRPharmS, has been appointed head of public relations at the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee. He was previously pharmacy contracts and development manager and pharmaceutical adviser at Hillingdon Primary Care Trust.

AWARDS

Pharma Awards

Pharmacists and pharmacy workers are invited to nominate colleagues for the Pharma Awards. The awards recognise those involved in innovative practice, striving to raise practice standards or providing a model of practice which others may wish to emulate. Further information and details of the 21 nomination categories are available from www.pharmawards.co.uk. Closing date 17 August.

RESOURCES

Chlamydia

The National Pharmacy Association and Community Pharmacy Wales have produced a document to support the development of community pharmacy chlamydia services in Wales. "Sexual health services: community pharmacy chlamydia testing and treatment service" provides an overview of the service, a template service level agreement, template patient group directions for the supply of doxycycline and azithromycin and the cost of commissioning the service. It is

RECALLED PRODUCTS

Viracept

All batches of Viracept (nelfinavir mesilate) products are being recalled, irrespective of whether they have been supplied direct from Roche or as parallel distributed stock.

Recipients are requested to quarantine stock, including part packs and to return them to their original suppliers. An attempt should also be made to recover products from patients.

Patients should be advised to contact their clinic immediately to arrange for provision of an appropriate alternative to Viracept to include in their HIV treatment regimen.

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (in conjunction with the European Medicines Agency and with assistance from Roche Registration) are recalling the product because they believe a toxic contaminant may be present.

The MHRA believe that the contamination affected the active ingredient which was later used in all the presentations. Early tests indicate that the level of contamination may vary between products and batches but it believes patient safety is best addressed by recalling all remaining stock. Medical information is available from Roche Registration on 0800 328 1629.

available to NPA members via www.npa.co.uk/members.

FUTURE EVENTS

Smoking cessation

Numark smoking cessation training for pharmacists, preregistration trainees, technicians and counter assistants. Birmingham, 18 June. Ipswich, 20 June. Norwich, 21 June. Leeds, 28 June. Basingstoke, 4 July. Waltham Abbey, 5 July. Quorn, 12 July. Cost £45 (pharmacist non-members), £30 (technicians and counter assistants), free of charge (Numark members). Further information from Betty Kelly on 01827 841205.

Fixed dose combinations

Morph Consultancy-run pharmacists' debate on whether there is a place in treatment for fixed-dose combinations, Quality Hotel, Walsall, 21 June, 7pm. Further information on 07971 404748 (e-mail claire@morphconsultancy.co.uk).

Risk management

Loughborough University's centre for hazard and risk management short courses, Loughborough, 26 June (risk assessment), 27 June (office health and safety) and 28 June (behavioural safety). Cost £250 per one-day course. Further details on 01509 222152 (e-mail s.p.edwards@lboro.ac.uk).

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