

Bogus calls in Leicestershire

This month market researchers, masquerading as employees of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society or *The Journal*, have been telephoning pharmacists in Leicestershire asking for personal details and information about the work they do. The researchers leave a telephone number, but these calls are bogus. To confirm whether the call is genuine, before giving any of your details ask for a name and return the call via the Society's switchboard (020 7735 9141) or at *The Journal* (020 7572 2414).

MEDICAL DEVICE ALERT

Vygon IV extension lines

Vygon (UK) Ltd is recalling a number of batches of V-Green narrow bore extension lines. There is a potential for the female connector of the line to crack when used to deliver propofol, which may result in leakage of the drug and failure to induce and maintain general anaesthesia. Batches are being recalled irrespective of which drugs the device is used with. Details of the batches affected are available from the "Safety warnings, alerts and recalls" section of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency website (www.mhra.gov.uk). Enquiries on 01285 886016 or 01285 886656 (e-mail dawn.kulling@vygon.com).

CAUTION IN USE

Fersamal

Goldshield Pharmaceuticals has announced that the labelling on its Fersamal (ferrous fumarate) tablets 210mg, 100 tablet containers, currently states incorrect information on the amount of ferrous fumarate and elemental iron found in each tablet. The current labelling states: "Each tablet contains Ferrous Fumarate BP 200mg (approximately 65mg ferrous iron)." The correct value is ferrous fumarate 210mg (approximately 68mg ferrous iron). According to Goldshield the formulation of the product has never changed. The labelling is in the process of being amended. Medical information on 020 8588 9131.

Gentamicin intrathecal

Winthrop Pharmaceuticals has issued a caution in use notification for Gentamicin Intrathecal 5mg/ml solution for injection. The current wording on the ampoule label may result in the product being administered by the wrong route. Winthrop warns that this product is for intrathecal or intraventricular administration only. Winthrop recommends that existing stock be used in conjunction with this notification, in the absence of replacement stock. The company is taking action to correct the labelling. Medical information on 01483 554101.

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Clasteon

Clasteon (sodium clodronate) capsules 400mg are now available from Beacon Pharmaceuticals. Net price: 30, £40.49; 120, £161.97. Legal category: POM.

Tostran gel

Tostran (testosterone) gel 2 per cent is now available from ProStrakan. Net price: 1 x 60g, £26.67; 3 x 60g, £80.01. Legal category: POM.

DRUG TARIFF UPDATES

NCSO endorsements

The Department of Health and the National Assembly for Wales have agreed to allow "no cheaper stock obtainable" (NCSO) endorsements for bisacodyl E/C tablets 5mg, diamorphine injection ampoules 5mg, 100mg and 500mg, and mefenamic acid capsules 250mg for June prescriptions.

COUNTER PRODUCTS

Doublebase shower

Doublebase Emollient Shower Gel is now available from Dermal Laboratories. Net price: 200g, £5.45. Legal category: P.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Sustiva

Bristol-Myers Squibb has discontinued Sustiva (efavirenz) capsules 100mg. Sustiva capsules 50mg, 200mg and 600mg, and Sustiva oral solution 30mg remain available. Medical information on 0800 7311736.

Xylocaine

AstraZeneca has discontinued Xylocaine (lidocaine) topical solution 4 per cent 30ml. Generic alternatives remain available. Medical information on 01582 836836.

Zerit

Bristol-Myers Squibb has discontinued Zerit (stavudine) capsules 15mg. Zerit capsules 20mg, 30mg and 40mg, and Zerit powder for solution 200mg remain available. Medical information on 0800 7311736.

REUNIONS

Heriot-Watt 1976

A reunion of pharmacy students who graduated from Heriot-Watt University in 1976 will take place in Edinburgh on 30 July. Further information from Kathy Bishop on 01480 413949 or 07778 747029 (kathy-bishop@tinyonline.co.uk).

FUTURE EVENTS

Type 2 diabetes

Primary Care Pharmacists' Association workshops on type 2 diabetes and related risk factors. Exeter, 28 June; Glasgow, 5 July. Free of charge. Further details from Michelle Kaulbach on 020 8398 7349 (e-mail michelle@pharmacomm.co.uk).

SPCs: regulatory aspects

The Organisation for Professionals in Regulatory Affairs one-day workshop on regulatory and practical aspects of the summary of product characteristics and patient information leaflet, London, 5 July. For costs and further information contact TOPRA on 020 7538 9502 (e-mail meetings@topra.org).

Aseptic services

University of Leeds Pharmaceutical Technology and Quality Assurance course on aseptic preparation and dispensing of medicines, Leeds, 9-12 July. Cost £430. Further details via

www.engineering.leeds.ac.uk/cpd
(tel 0113 3438104; e-mail cpd@engineering.leeds.ac.uk).

CLARIFICATIONS

Journal packaging

In the editor's response to David Knott's letter (*PJ*, 19 May, p586) we gave misleading information provided by the supplier about the cost of distributing *The Journal* in biodegradable polywrap. We have investigated the options further and it is cost effective to switch to biodegradable polywrap, which will take place from this issue.

CORRECTIONS

Brian Curwain's letter

Brian Curwain (*PJ*, 16 June, p704) was described as "chief pharmacist" at Hampshire PCT. This was an editorial error; he does not hold this post and wishes to make this clear in fairness to his colleagues.

Contact us

Notice-board welcomes information relevant to pharmacists, which can be e-mailed to notice-board@pharmj.org.uk. There is no charge for inclusion but *The Journal* cannot guarantee a particular publication date or that the item will be published. An organisation wishing to guarantee inclusion can arrange an advertisement, for which there would be a charge (contact advertdept@rpsgb.org).

Advertisement

Important Announcement Concerning Availability of DOXEPIN CAPSULES

We continue to receive a high level of telephone enquiries concerning the availability of doxepin capsules and are happy to confirm the following presentations are available from our distributor United Drug Group

Tel: 01773 510 123

under the brand name SINEPIN:

SINEPIN 25MG CAPS containing 25MG of doxepin hydrochloride

SINEPIN 50MG CAPS containing 50MG of doxepin hydrochloride



For any other enquiries

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