

SPC CHANGES

Durogesic DTrans

Information about use in paediatrics has been added to the summary of product characteristics for Durogesic DTrans (fentanyl; Janssen-Cilag) transdermal patch. The SPC now advises that patches should be applied to the upper back of children, to minimise the chances of the child removing them. The special warnings and precautions in use section also now warns: that the product should not be administered in opioid-naive children; that the potential for serious or life-threatening hypoventilation exists regardless of the dose of Durogesic DTrans administered; that caution should be used when choosing the application site for the patch; and that adhesion of the patch should be monitored closely.

Gardasil

The following adverse events (reported from post-marketing surveillance) have been added to the summary of product characteristics for Gardasil (human papillomavirus vaccine, recombinant adsorbed; Sanofi Pasteur MSD): nausea, vomiting, hypersensitivity reactions (including anaphylaxis), dizziness and syncope.

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Aranesp

Aranesp (darbepoetin alfa) is now available from Amgen in 130µg/0.65ml syringe and 130µg/0.65ml SureClick presentations. 4 × prefilled syringe, £810.42; 1 × SureClick prefilled pen £202.61. Legal category: POM.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Moditen

Sanofi-Aventis will discontinue Moditen (fluphenazine) tablets 1mg at the end of June 2008. The company advises that patients being treated with Moditen should be reviewed by their prescribing doctor to co-ordinate gradual withdrawal and switching to an alternative treatment while stocks remain. Medical information on 01483 505515.

Accessing SPCs

The summaries of product characteristics and patient information leaflets for medicines licensed in the UK are available via <http://emc.medicines.org.uk>.

RECALLED PRODUCTS

Flucloxacillin capsules 500mg

Milpharm and Arrow Generics are recalling the following batches of flucloxacillin capsules 28 × 500mg due to concerns about the stability of the final product.

Livery	Batch number	Expiry	First distributed
Milpharm	CDF 5026	October 2007	May 2006
Arrow Generics	AFDC 6002	February 2008	October 2006

Recipients are requested to quarantine any remaining stock and return it to their supplier for credit. Further information from Milpharm on 020 8845 8811.

SUPPLY ISSUES

Fortipine LA 40

Fortipine LA 40 (nifedipine) tablets are available again from Goldshield after being out of stock.

Navridex

Navridex (cyclopenthiiazide) tablets are available again from Goldshield after being out of stock.

Stelazine

Stelazine (trifluoperazine) tablets 112 × 1mg are available again from Goldshield after being out of stock.

Synarel

Synarel (nafarelin acetate) nasal spray 30 dose (4ml) and 60 dose (8ml) are currently unavailable from Pfizer. New stock is expected to be available at the end of September. Further information on 01304 616161.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Archimedes Pharma

Following their acquisition by Archimedes in October 2006, Link Pharmaceuticals Ltd is now known as Archimedes Pharma UK and Concord Pharmaceuticals as Archimedes Pharma Products.

Neupro

Schwarz Pharma is issuing a number of batches of Neupro (rotigotine) transdermal patch 6mg/24 hours (28 pack) in cartons containing pouches that have been over-labelled. Pouches from batch numbers 47893612, 47893613, 47893614 and 47893615 are Italian-labelled stock, overlabelled

with the appropriate UK text.

Further information on 01923 684100 (e-mail medinfo@schwarzpharma.co.uk).

Liverpool John Moores

The following individuals have successfully completed Liverpool John Moores University school of pharmacy and chemistry postgraduate programmes: *Postgraduate diploma in clinical pharmacy*: Richard Allen, Caroline Bagley, Rebecca Fletcher, Sarah Foley, Susana Garcia Rodriguez, Clare Hine, Chun Wei Ho, Ariel Hubbert, Clarice Ikwuagwu, Adrienne Lancaster, Andrew Lewis, Jennifer Mason, Joanne Murphy, Hibo Osman, Cheryl Pace, Sarah Williams, Jeffrey Wilson, Victoria Young. *MSc in clinical pharmacy*: Joanne Clubbe, Adele Cockcroft (both with distinction).

APPOINTMENTS

Malcolm Rowland

Malcolm Rowland, FRPharmS, professor emeritus of the school of pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Manchester, has been appointed chairman of the scientific advisory board of Simcyp.

RESOURCES

PPI Specialist Library

A Patient and Public Involvement Specialist Library, run by the King's Fund, is now accessible through the NHS National Library for Health (www.library.nhs.uk/ppi).

FUTURE EVENTS

Pharmacy technicians

The Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education and the Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK are hosting four continuing professional development events. University of Manchester, 20 September; Aston University, Birmingham, 24 September; University of Bristol, 27 September; King's College London, 29 September. Free of charge (registered pharmacy technicians and APTUK members), £50 (all other technicians). Further information from Jayne Plant (jayne@cppe.ac.uk) or Dave Dunning (dave@cppe.ac.uk).

Respiratory study day

United Kingdom Clinical Pharmacy Association respiratory group study day, providing an overview of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease management. Birmingham, 4 October. Cost £50 (members), £125 (non-members). Further information on 0116 227 6999 or via www.ukcpa.org.

Managing medicines

Pharmacy Management national seminar entitled "Managing medicines in the reforming NHS". London, 16 October. Further details from www.pharman.co.uk, on 0118 984 4977 or e-mail bookings@pharman.co.uk.

Hypertension prescribing

British Hypertension Society and Nurses Hypertension Association training day for independent prescribers on hypertension prescribing, focusing on diabetes and renal disease. Derby, 5 November. Free of charge (£30 deposit required). Further details from Jackie Howarth on 07717 467973 (e-mail bhs@le.ac.uk).

Bogus calls

Market researchers, masquerading as employees of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, *The Journal* or the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency have been telephoning pharmacists asking for personal and work-related information. The researchers may 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 either return the call via the Society's switchboard (020 7735 9141) or via the MHRA's central enquiry point (020 7084 2000), as appropriate.



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