

## Industrial action and delivery of *The Journal*

Delivery of this issue of *The Journal* is likely to have been seriously delayed because of industrial action by the Communication Workers Union. Unfortunately, it was not possible to adjust *The Journal's* print schedule in time to account for the late announcement of the strike. Such action does not affect access to *The Journal* through *PJ Online* ([www.pjonline.com](http://www.pjonline.com)). Further disruption is expected in the coming weeks.

## CPA and FIP conference supplements

*The Pharmaceutical Journal* is producing a supplement containing highlights from the 2007 Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association conference, which took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 1–5 August. This will be available online from 8 October ([www.pjonline.com/cpa](http://www.pjonline.com/cpa)).

In addition, full coverage of this year's FIP Congress, which took place last month in Beijing, China, will be published as a supplement to *The Journal*.

Readers who would like to receive a printed copy of either of these supplements should contact Emma Kerby-Evans, *The Pharmaceutical Journal*, 1 Lambeth High Street, London, SE1 7JN (e-mail [emma.kerby-evans@pharmj.org.uk](mailto:emma.kerby-evans@pharmj.org.uk); tel 020 7572 2414).

## SPC CHANGES

### Duloxetine

Warnings about suicidal thoughts have been added to the summaries of product characteristics for Cymbalta (duloxetine; Lilly) and Yentreve (duloxetine; Lilly).

### Meptid

Additional information about treatment of overdose has been included in the summary of product characteristics for Meptid (metoprazinolol; Shire) tablets.

### Pioglitazone

Information about an increased risk of fractures has been added to the summaries of product characteristics for Actos (pioglitazone; Takeda) and Competact (pioglitazone, metformin; Takeda).

### Sprycel

Starting dose information has been updated in the summary of product characteristics for Sprycel (dasatinib; Bristol-Myers Squibb). 100mg once daily is now specified as the starting dose for patients with chronic phase chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) that is resistant or intolerant to prior therapy, including imatinib. For patients with advanced (accelerated or blast) phase CML resistant or intolerant to prior therapy (including imatinib), or Philadelphia chromosome positive acute lymphoblastic leukaemia resistant or intolerant to prior therapy, the starting dose remains 70mg twice a day.

### Stalevo

Additional information is now included in the special warnings of the summary of product characteristics for Stalevo (levodopa, carbidopa, entacapone;

Orion). It now states: "For patients who experience progressive anorexia, asthenia and weight decrease within a relatively short period of time, a general medical evaluation including liver function should be considered." Colitis; discoloration of skin, hair, beard and nails; and hepatitis with cholestatic features have been added to the undesirable effects section of the SPC.

### Zyprexa

Elevated cholesterol levels has been added to the lists of common side effects (1–10 per cent) in the summaries of product characteristics for Zyprexa (olanzapine; Lilly) products. The special warnings sections of the SPCs contain a new statement about lipid alteration in patients treated with olanzapine.

## PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

### Alateris

Alateris (glucosamine hydrochloride) tablets 625mg are now available from Ransom. Net price: 60, £18.40. Legal category: POM.

## SUPPLY ISSUES

### Ergocalciferol

UCB Pharma expects its ergocalciferol tablets 0.25mg and 1.25mg to be unavailable for a number of months. Further information on 01753 447544.

## DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

### Nivaquine

Nivaquine (chloroquine; Sanofi-Aventis) injection will be

discontinued in the coming weeks when stocks are exhausted.

### Semi-Daonil

Semi-Daonil (glibenclamide) tablets 2.5mg will be discontinued by Sanofi-Aventis in October.

## PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

### Movicol

Movicol (macrogol 3350 plus electrolytes) 50-sachet packs are now available from Norgine. Net price: 50 sachets, £11.58. Legal category: P.

## RESOURCES

### NPCi

The National Prescribing Centre has launched NPCi, an NHS learning resource that provides evidence-based educational materials and resources relating to prescribing, therapeutics and medicines management. It also includes blogs and podcasts and an interactive discussion forum. It takes the form of a virtual building with a series of floors providing access to different types of learning material. NPCi is available via [www.npci.org.uk](http://www.npci.org.uk).

## FUTURE EVENTS

### Nutrition

Council for Responsible Nutrition conference, "Nutrition, healthy ageing and public policy", London, 6 November. Cost £381.88. Further information available from Julie Hayward on 020 8807 4247 (e-mail [juliehcrcn@aol.com](mailto:juliehcrcn@aol.com)) or via [www.crn-uk.com](http://www.crn-uk.com).

### Patient information

Patient Information Forum conference, "Meeting diversity in

patient information", Manchester, 15 November. Cost £276.13 (members), £334.88 (non-members). Further information on 020 8541 1399 (e-mail [katie@healthcare-events.co.uk](mailto:katie@healthcare-events.co.uk)) or via [www.healthcare-events.co.uk](http://www.healthcare-events.co.uk).

### EPU congress

European Pharmaceutical Union congress, The Hague, 9–11 November. Further information from [info@epu.eu](mailto:info@epu.eu) or via [www.epu.eu](http://www.epu.eu).

### Cardiology

Cardiac and Critical Care Organisation of UK Pharmacists national multidisciplinary conference, London, 7–8 December. Further information by e-mailing [cco@onetel.com](mailto:cco@onetel.com) or [clinical.therapeutics@google.co.uk](mailto:clinical.therapeutics@google.co.uk).

### Ophthalmic pharmacists

Ophthalmic Pharmacists' Group meeting, London, 4 December. Further information from Elaine Mann ([Elaine.Mann@Leedsth.nhs.uk](mailto:Elaine.Mann@Leedsth.nhs.uk)). Information about joining the group is available via [www.eyetext.net/ogp](http://www.eyetext.net/ogp).

## CORRECTIONS

### Atriance

The price of Atriance (*PJ*, 15 September, p286) should have read "6 × 250mg/50ml vials, £1,332", and not as stated. *The Journal* was supplied with incorrect information.

### Heather Simmonds

In the letter we published from Heather Simmonds on 22 September (p325), we wrongly attributed the designation "MRPharmS". Mrs Simmonds is not a member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

## 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.

Notice-board welcomes information relevant to pharmacists, which can be e-mailed to [notice-board@pharmj.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:advertdept@rpsgb.org)).