

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>.

SPC CHANGES

Edronax

Advice that Edronax (reboxetine; Pfizer) should not be used for patients under 18 years of age due to risk of suicide-related behaviour has been added to the product's summary of product characteristics, along with additional information.

Enbrel

New information about infections in patients treated with Enbrel (etanercept; Wyeth) has been added to the special warnings

sections in the summaries of product characteristics for Enbrel products. Patients should be evaluated for infections before, during and after treatment with Enbrel, the SPCs state. There are also new warnings about tuberculosis: as well as other new information, the SPCs specify that all patients must be evaluated for both active and inactive tuberculosis before starting treatment with Enbrel. Reactivation of hepatitis B infection has been reported in patients who are chronic carriers of the virus and who have received Enbrel, and there have been reports of worsening of hepatitis C infection in Enbrel-treated patients. The SPCs now state that patients treated with Enbrel should be given the product's "patient alert card". New information on drug interactions with anakinra and with sulfasalazine has also been added.

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Exelon

Exelon (rivastigmine) transdermal patch is now available from Novartis in two strengths. Net price: 30 × 4.6mg/24h, £83.84; 30 × 9.5mg/24h, £83.84. Legal category: POM.

Mirtazapine

Mirtazapine dispersible tablets 15mg, 30mg and 45mg are now available from Actavis. Net price: 30 tablets (all strengths), £17.27. Legal category: POM.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Securon

Securon (verapamil hydrochloride) tablets 40mg and 120mg have been discontinued by Abbott.

Barry Andrews CBE



Barry Andrews, former chairman of the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee, following receipt of his CBE insignia earlier this month at Buckingham Palace.

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).

Hospital Pharmacist conference

The *Hospital Pharmacist* conference and exhibition 2008, entitled "New directions for pharmacy — reconfiguring and re-engineering services", will take place on 31 January in London (www.pjonline.com/hpconference).

Emma Kerby-Evans can be contacted for further information and to arrange a place at the conference (tel 020 7572 2414; e-mail emma.kerby-evans@pharmj.org.uk).

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Learning@lunch

The Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (England) wishes to inform hospital pharmacists and pharmacy technicians that the national evaluation of learning@lunch closes on 30 November (the questionnaire for which is accessible via www.pharmacy.manchester.ac.uk/cpws/learningatlunch). Participants who have misplaced their online token or paper survey form can contact Liz Seston (liz.seston@gmail.com).

The PHARMAs

The inaugural Pharmacy Awards — the PHARMAs — were presented in Birmingham last week (*PJ*, 20 October, p428). The following additional pharmacists received an award:

Community pharmacy: Ruth Campbell, of Alliance Pharmacy, Hamilton, South Lanarkshire, for contributions to patient care (community pharmacist of the year); Stephani Dean and Karla Amott, of Manor Pharmacy, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, for their contribution to palliative care with the pharmacy's aseptic dispensing unit (community pharmacy

RECALLED PRODUCTS

Steripaste

Medlock Medical Ltd is recalling the following batches of Steripaste (zinc oxide BP 15 per cent w/w) medicated paste bandage, in Seton livery packs, due to failed pouch seals which pose a risk of microbial contamination.

Batch number	Expiry date	Pack size	First distributed
07085930	31 July 2010	12	October 2007
07085932	31 July 2010	12	October 2007
07085673	31 July 2010	12	October 2007

Recipients are requested to quarantine any remaining stock and return it to their supplier for credit. Medical information on 0161 777 2669 or 0161 777 2628. Stock enquiries to 0161 777 2264.

practice award); Pamela McGowan, of Alliance Pharmacy, Livingston, West Lothian, for promoting the role of community pharmacy to the prison sector (pharmacist manager of the year); Robert McDonald, of Vet-Medic Pharmacy, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, for his work with over-the-counter veterinary medicines (pet medicine pharmacist of the year); and Graham Jones, of Graham Jones Pharmacy, Wantage, Oxfordshire, for his dual professional and local-government work (local pharmacy leader of the year).
Hospital pharmacy: Paul Kendrew,

Hull Royal Infirmary, for his renal pharmacy services work (hospital pharmacist of the year); and Brian Smith, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London, for running a home delivery service for HIV patients (acute sector care award).
Primary and community care: Karen O'Brien of Manchester Primary Care Trust, for service development, including DVDs for non-English-speaking people (primary and community care pharmacist of the year); and Judith Hessewood and Clair Huckerby, of Dudley Primary Care Trust, for their development

of an outreach workshop for local community groups to improve medicines understanding (public health improvement through pharmacy award).

Academia: David Thurston, University of London, for his contribution to drug discovery, in particular, of cancer medicines (academic pharmacist of the year); and Sandra Wood, University of Bath, for three decades' work as a mentor to pharmacy students (pharmacy education award).

FUTURE EVENTS

IT conference

Conference entitled "Knowledge-driven health care solutions: improving patient outcomes and service delivery", looking at how IT initiatives, such as electronic care records, affect NHS service provision. London, 6 November. Cost £233.83 (voluntary sector), £351.33 (NHS and public sector), £468.83 (Government departments and commercial sector). Further details on 020 7324 4363 (e-mail andrew.almond@neilstewartassociates.co.uk) or online (including registration) at www.neilstewartassociates.com/sh233.

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