



Hospital Pharmacist conference

The *Hospital Pharmacist* conference and exhibition "New directions for pharmacy — reconfiguring and re-engineering services" will take place on 31 January in London (www.pjonline.com/reports/hp/index.html). A limited number of places are still available and students and preregistration trainees can register at a special rate of £20. Further information is available from Emma Kerby-Evans on 020 7572 2414 (e-mail emma.kerby-evans@pharmj.org.uk).

DoH pharmacy engagement events

The Department of Health's chief pharmaceutical officer, Keith Ridge, has been asked by Lord Darzi of Denham to lead two events to support pharmacy engagement in shaping the future of the NHS in England. The events will provide feedback to Lord Darzi on how pharmacy can contribute to his review of the NHS in England. The first event will be held on 27 February at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's headquarters, London. Details of a second event in northern England will be available shortly. Further information and booking details via www.pcc.nhs.uk/events

NEW MEDICINES

Vectibix

COMPOSITION: Panitumumab.
PRESENTATION: Concentrate for solution for infusion.
CLASS: Monoclonal antibody.
Indications: EGFR-expressing metastatic colorectal carcinoma with the non-mutated (wild-type) KRAS gene after failure of chemotherapy regimen containing fluoropyrimidine, oxaliplatin, and irinotecan.
DOSAGE: 6mg/kg bodyweight once every two weeks.
CONTRAINDICATIONS: Patients less than 18 years of age. Patients with interstitial pneumonitis or pulmonary fibrosis.
PRECAUTIONS: If a patient develops severe or intolerable dermatologic reactions, Vectibix should be withheld until reactions improve; patients should be monitored for inflammatory or infectious sequelae and appropriate treatment promptly initiated. Patients should wear sunscreen and hats, and limit sun exposure, if they experience rash or dermatological toxicities while receiving Vectibix. In the event of acute onset or worsening of pulmonary symptoms, Vectibix treatment should be interrupted and an investigation of symptoms undertaken. If pneumonitis or lung infiltrates are diagnosed, Vectibix should be discontinued and the patient treated. Patients should be monitored for hypomagnesaemia and accompanying hypocalcaemia every two weeks during Vectibix treatment and eight weeks after the

completion of treatment. Administration of Vectibix in combination with bolus 5-fluorouracil, leucovorin and irinotecan or in combination with bevacizumab-containing chemotherapy regimens should be avoided.
SIDE EFFECTS: Very common ($\geq 1/10$) diarrhoea, dry skin, erythema, fatigue, paronychia, pruritus, rash, skin exfoliation, skin fissures. Common ($\geq 1/100$, $< 1/10$) alopecia, conjunctivitis, cough, dehydration, dry eye, dry mouth, dyspnoea, eye pruritus, growth of eyelashes, headache, hypertrichosis, hypocalcaemia, hypokalaemia, hypomagnesaemia, increased lacrimation, infusion reactions (pyrexia, chills), mucosal inflammation, nasal dryness, nausea, ocular hyperaemia, onycholysis, stomatitis, vomiting.
LEGAL CATEGORY: POM.
Net price: 1 x 100mg/5ml vial, £299.
CONTACT DETAILS: Amgen Ltd, 240 Cambridge Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 0WD (tel 01223 420305).

AWARDS

APTUK/AAH awards

Entry forms for the Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK/AAH Hospital Services pharmacy technician of the year awards are available from AAH (e-mail esther.joberns@aah.co.uk; tel 024 7643 2941). Winners will receive a bursary of £1,000 and one year's

RECALLED PRODUCTS

Metwest Pharmaceuticals simvastatin tablets 10mg

Metwest Pharmaceuticals is recalling the following batch of its simvastatin tablets 10mg because the blister foil is incorrectly labelled as simvastatin 20mg. All other labelling is correct and tablets present in the blisters are 10mg strength.

Batch number	Expiry date	Pack size	First distributed
TS0010806	July 2008	28	October 2007

Recipients should quarantine any remaining stock and return it to their supplier for credit. Further information on 020 7835 5990.

APTUK membership. Closing date 31 January.

pharmacy services to continue to be lawfully provided from the premises.

CLARIFICATION

Interim suspensions

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society wishes to clarify its position on interim suspensions of unincorporated sole practitioner pharmacists who become suspended under the Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians Order 2007 (*PJ*, 5/12 January, p5). It wishes to be reassured that such pharmacists can put in place arrangements that both maintain protection of the public and allow

CORRECTION

IPG newsletter

The article titled "MHRA launches a new strategy to curb trade in counterfeit medicines" in last month's Industrial Pharmacists Group newsletter (*PJ*, 22/29 December 2007) was written by John Kerridge, quality leader at Lilly UK, not Mike Murray as published. Mr Murray wrote the text in the panel "2-D data matrix coding: a system to combat counterfeiting".

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