



## SPC CHANGES

### Byetta

Information about reported events of altered renal function and acute pancreatitis have been added to the summary of product characteristics for Byetta (exenatide; Lilly).

### Calcort

Information about potentially severe psychiatric adverse reactions and neuropsychiatric disturbances has been added to the summary of product characteristics for Calcort (deflazacort; Shire).

### Glivec

The special warnings section of the summary of product characteristics for Glivec (imatinib; Novartis) now includes new information on cases of liver injury.

### Macugen

Additional administration information has been added to the summary of product characteristics for Macugen (pegaptanib sodium; Pfizer). The SPC now says: "After two consecutive injections of Macugen, if a patient does not demonstrate a treatment benefit (loss of less than 15 letters of visual acuity) at the 12-week visit, consideration should be given to stopping or withholding Macugen therapy."

### Minodiab

The summary of product characteristics for Minodiab (glipizide; Pfizer) contains new information about a possible interaction with voriconazole.

### Nizoral

The therapeutic indication for Nizoral (ketoconazole; Janssen-Cilag) tablets has been restricted to patients resistant to, or intolerant of, other effective antifungal therapies. A number of other changes have also been made to the product's summary of product characteristics relating to a risk of serious hepatotoxicity. Duration of treatment has been highlighted as a main factor in the risk of serious hepatotoxicity. Several drugs have been added to the list of drugs for which concomitant use with

Nizoral is contraindicated. Warnings about hepatotoxicity and hepatic function before and during use of Nizoral have been updated.

### Prevenar

Information about the potential risk of apnoea when administering the primary immunisation series to very premature infants has been added to the summary of product characteristics for Prevenar (pneumococcal polysaccharide conjugate vaccine, adsorbed; Wyeth).

### Salofalk

A once-daily dosage regimen has been added to the summary of product characteristics for Salofalk (mesalazine; Dr Falk Pharma) gastro-resistant prolonged-release granules. New information about warnings, precautions and adverse events has also been added.

### Sutent

The summary of product characteristics for Sutent (sunitinib; Pfizer) now says that daily doses should neither exceed 75mg nor be decreased below 25mg.

### Tygacil

Warnings about anaphylaxis and anaphylactoid reactions have been updated in the summary of product characteristics for Tygacil (tigecycline; Wyeth).

### Xeloda

Xeloda (capecitabine; Roche) is now indicated as monotherapy for metastatic colorectal cancer. The product's summary of product characteristics has been updated.

### Zonegran

New information on interaction studies of Zonegran (zonisamide; Eisai) and drugs that are substrates of P-glycoprotein is now included in the summary of product characteristics for Zonegran.

## PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

### Rebetol

Rebetol (ribavirin) is now available from Schering-Plough as a 40mg/ml oral solution. Net price: 100ml, £69.71. Legal category: POM.

## DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

### Fletchers' enemas

Forest Laboratories will no longer be supplying Fletchers' Phosphate Enema or Fletchers' Arachis Oil Retention Enema once current

stocks are exhausted. Further information on 01322 550550.

## PRODUCTS MISCELLANY

### Ensure products

During 2008 a number of Ensure Plus Milkshake Style and Ensure Plus Yoghurt Style products will be changing to a bottle presentation. In addition, Abbott Nutrition's 1.5kcal/ml juice-style sip feed range will be changing name from Enlive Plus to Ensure Plus Juice and changing to a bottle presentation.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Antidepressant products

The Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency is asking companies that hold marketing authorisations for antidepressant medicines to update their products' warnings on suicidal thoughts and behaviour, particularly with respect to the increased risk to young adults and the need for close monitoring of patients. Agreed wording for these warnings is available via [www.mhra.gov.uk](http://www.mhra.gov.uk).

## APPOINTMENTS

### Digby Emson

Digby Emson, FRPharmS, has been appointed non-executive chairman of Buttercups Training.

## ABOUT PEOPLE

### GHP

Richard Cattell, MRPharmS, chief pharmacist for the Dudley Group of Hospitals, has been elected president of the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists. David Miller, MRPharmS, chief pharmacist for City Hospitals Sunderland Foundation Trust has been elected vice-president. David Thornton, MRPharmS, is now chairman of the terms and conditions committee. Robert McCartney, FRPharmS, is now chairman of education and development. Andrew Alldred, MRPharmS, continues as chairman of practice.

## WANTS

### Rent review

David Dudley would like to hear from anyone who has recently completed (or is negotiating) a rent review. Information about settlements and how figures were calculated can be e-mailed to [treetops.pharmacy@npanet.co.uk](mailto:treetops.pharmacy@npanet.co.uk).

## RESOURCES

### New MUR form from NPA

The new medicines use review form, designed to improve communication about MURs between pharmacists and GPs, is available from the National Pharmacy Association. The form is carbonized and comes with guidance on use. It is available from NPA Sales on 01727 800401 or via [www.npa.co.uk/members/webshop](http://www.npa.co.uk/members/webshop). Cost £9.99

## FUTURE EVENTS

### Pharmacognosy lecture

Lecture, entitled "A journey from plants to medicine — an integrated view of pharmacognosy", delivered by Lars Bohlin of the University of Uppsala, Sweden, and sponsored by A. Vogel/Bioforce. School of Pharmacy, University of London, 27 February. Free of charge. Further information available via [www.avogel.co.uk](http://www.avogel.co.uk).

### Barcoding

NHS Connecting for Health and GS1 stakeholder events on barcoding of unlicensed medicines. 25 February (London), 3 March (Burton-on-Trent), 13 March (Leeds). Free of charge. Further information from [neil.lawrence@nhs.net](mailto:neil.lawrence@nhs.net).

### NPC Plus accreditation

National Prescribing Centre course for those wishing to be accredited to provide NPC Plus workshops. 15 May, 16 May, 17 June and 8 July. Venues to be confirmed. Free of charge. Closing date for applications to attend: 29 February. Further information from Julie Nowak ([julie.nowak@npc.nhs.uk](mailto:julie.nowak@npc.nhs.uk)) or via the NPC website ([www.npc.co.uk](http://www.npc.co.uk)).

## Contact us

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)).

## 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>.