

Surrey pharmacy has royal visit



The Duke of Kent visited May & Thomson Pharmacy near Woking, Surrey, on 28 February. Pharmacist Shashi Chandarana told the duke about the range of health services offered at the pharmacy for the local community. Pictured (left to right): Mr Chandarana, National Pharmacy Association chairman Dilip Joshi, the Duke of Kent and Surrey Local Pharmaceutical Committee chief executive Terry Silverstone.

SPC CHANGES

Metoclopramide

Care should be exercised when using Hameln Pharmaceuticals's metoclopramide 5mg/ml injection for patients with a history of atopy (including asthma) or porphyria, the product's summary of product characteristics now states. Reports of hypersensitivity, including anaphylaxis, have been added to the undesirable effects section of the SPC.

Rabies vaccine

Guillain-Barré Syndrome and paresis have been added to the list of undesirable effects in the summary of product characteristics for Sanofi Pasteur MSD's rabies vaccine.

Vfend

The contraindication restricting use of Vfend (voriconazole; Pfizer) in combination with efavirenz has been removed from Vfend's summary of product characteristics. Information on dose adjustment when Vfend and efavirenz are coadministered has been added to the SPC, as well as details of an interaction with alfentanil.

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Fexofenadine

Fexofenadine hydrochloride tablets 120mg and 180mg are now available from Pliva. Net price: 30

× 120mg, £5.92; 30 × 180mg, £7.49. Legal category: POM.

Zemplar

Zemplar (paricalcitol) is now available from Abbott in oral capsules. Net price: 28 × 1µg, £69.44; 28 × 2µg, £138.88; 28 × 4µg, £277.76. Legal category: POM.

SUPPLY ISSUES

Kenalog pre-filled syringe

Bristol-Myers Squibb is currently unable to meet customer demand for Kenalog (triamcinolone acetate) pre-filled syringe 40mg/ml (1ml and 2ml) and does not know how long this stock shortage will last. Bristol-Myers Squibb is advising healthcare professionals to prioritise use of any remaining stock for patients who are unable to receive alternative treatments. Health professionals with patients who can only have the pre-filled syringe should contact customer services on 01244 586250. Kenalog vials 40mg (5 × 1ml) remain available. Medical information on 0800 7311736.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DermaSilk

DermaSilk therapeutic garments (listed in part IXA of the Drug Tariff) can be ordered as a "special"

Bogus calls

Market researchers, masquerading as employees of *The Pharmaceutical Journal*, have again been telephoning pharmacists asking for personal details and information about the work they do. These calls are bogus. Any person who receives a call of this nature should ask for a name and contact number, or dial 1471 to ascertain the caller's telephone number, and then contact Emma Kerby-Evans at *The Journal* on 020 7572 2414.

MEDICAL DEVICE ALERTS

Smiths Medical cassette reservoirs for CADD pumps

Smiths Medical is recalling a number of batches of its medication cassette reservoirs, used with CADD-Legacy and CADD-Prizm ambulatory infusion pumps, due to a manufacturing fault that may allow leakage from, or entry of air into, cassettes from specific batches. Any cassette reservoirs of the models listed below with batch numbers from 023X17 to 122X17 are affected (ie, batch numbers end in X17 and start with the numbers 023 consecutively through to 122).

Model number	Description
21-7001-24	50ml reservoir
21-7002-24	100ml reservoir
21-7100-24	100ml reservoir, yellow

Recipients are asked to identify and quarantine medication cassette reservoirs from the affected batches and contact Smiths Medical to arrange replacement of the affected devices. Affected cassettes that are currently in use should be monitored for signs of leaks and changed at the next scheduled interval. The cassette should be changed as soon as possible if leaking is observed.

Further information from Jon Charters at Smiths Medical on 01923 246434 (e-mail jon.charters@smiths-medical.com).

from wholesalers or direct from DermaSilk on 08700 424232.

UCB Pharma distribution

UCB Pharma is to outsource all customer services, warehousing, distribution and invoicing activities to Unidrug Distribution Group (UDG) from 1 April for all UK customers. The last day for placing orders with UCB will be 25 March, for delivery by 28 March. Orders required after this date should be placed with UDG (tel 01773 510123; fax 01773 810644; e-mail csg.udg@udg.co.uk). Pharmacists who order electronically should remember to change their ordering to UDG. Enquiries about payments due to UCB for March deliveries should be made to 01753 534655.

RESOURCES

NHS operating framework

The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee has produced a briefing document for local pharmaceutical committees, summarising key points within the Department of Health's NHS operating framework for 2008-09. Available from the publications section of the PSNC website (www.psn.org.uk).

APPOINTMENTS

Tony Nunn

Tony Nunn, FRPharmS, has been appointed honorary industrial professor at Liverpool John Moores University School of Pharmacy and Chemistry.

FUTURE EVENTS

Gene and immunotherapy

Study day on gene and immunotherapy, for NHS hospital pharmacy staff, Aston University, Birmingham, 19 March. Free of charge. Further information is available from j.f.marriott@aston.ac.uk.

CPPE learning@lunch

The Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education is running a series of learning@lunch events for hospital pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who already facilitate learning@lunch sessions or who are interested in becoming involved in the programme. 23 April (Birmingham), 29 April (Bristol), 30 April (London), 14 May (Manchester), 15 May (Leeds). Free of charge. Further information is available from Jayne Plant on 0161 778 4015 (e-mail jayne@cppe.ac.uk).

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).