

For personal use only. Not to be reproduced without permission of the editor
(permissions@pharmj.org.uk)

The National Poisons Information Service

— information for all health professionals

From S. Thomas MD FRCP, D.N. Bateman MD FRCP, J.A. Vale MD FRCP, and J.Thompson MD FRCP

My colleagues and I in the National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) were interested to see the two articles written by colleagues from the Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (*Hospital Pharmacist* 2007;14:7–14).

While we were grateful that the articles referred to TOXBASE, the online poisons information database run by the NPIS, we

Suggestions for future special features

If you would like to suggest a topic for a future special feature in *Hospital Pharmacist*, or if you are a specialist clinical pharmacist interested in writing about your area of practice, please contact Hannah Pike (e-mail hannah.pike@pharmj.org.uk, telephone 020 7572 2425) or Rachel Graham (e-mail rachel.graham@pharmj.org.uk, telephone 020 7572 2419).

were disappointed that the article did not refer to the National Poisons Information Service as a source of information about poisons.

The NPIS is formally commissioned by the Health Protection Agency on behalf of the Department of Health to provide information to health professionals about the management of poisoning. Health professionals in the UK can register for TOXBASE (www.toxbase.org) free of charge.

Specialist information and advice is available on a 24-hour basis via the single NPIS number 0870 600 6266. This number will connect the caller to the most appropriate NPIS Unit. NPIS also provides the National Teratology Information Service which can also be accessed by telephone (0191 232 1525). The NPIS advises the British National Formulary and NHS Direct (NHS 24 in Scotland) on the management of poisoning.

It is important that NHS users access poisons information via the NPIS since the service plays an important surveillance role

collecting data on poisoning and is integrated into national policies for emergency response.

The stocking of antidotes is of particular importance to your readership. NPIS has published advice on this which is available via the TOXBASE website. There are some inconsistencies with the British Association of Accident and Emergency Medicine/ Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust guidelines which we are seeking to resolve with them. In the meantime, the NPIS would welcome any enquiries from readers regarding this issue.

Simon Thomas

Director NPIS (Newcastle unit)

Nick Bateman

Director, NPIS (Edinburgh unit)

Allister Vale

Director, NPIS (Birmingham unit)

John Thompson

Director, NPIS (Cardiff unit)

PJCAREERS

TWO MILLION HITS!

OVER 15,000 REGISTERED USERS

GO TO OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL THE UP
TO DATE PHARMACY VACANCIES

www.pjcareers.com

STREAMLINING COMMUNICATION WITH E-PROCUREMENT

From J. McIlvaney

The attention given to e-procurement and related issues in your December special feature was very welcome (*Hospital Pharmacist* 2006;13:391–403). The importance of efficient e-procurement, streamlined chains of communication and relationships with partners as suppliers is an area in which AAH Hospital Service has developed wide-ranging experience and expertise. To read of others' experiences in these areas is informative.

We particularly welcome the fact that the features helped to highlight that e-procurement is at its most effective when seen not as an end in itself but within the wider context of over-arching supply chain management. Our experience, and that of hospital pharmacists and organisations across the UK with whom we have developed mutually-enriching relationships, would certainly back this up.

John McIlvaney

Head of Channel Development — AAH Hospital Service

Letters to the editor

Hospital Pharmacist welcomes letters from readers in response to any material published, and on other relevant matters of interest to hospital pharmacists.

Letters should not normally be of more than 400 words. *Hospital Pharmacist* reserves the right to edit and abridge them. A contact telephone number should always be supplied. Where letters are critical of individuals, organisations or companies, details of the criticisms may be sent to the person or body concerned so that their response may appear in the same issue as the letter. Letters can be emailed to hospital.pharmacist@pharmj.org.uk or sent to *Hospital Pharmacist*, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN.