IRISH MEDICINES BOARD
Bord Leigheasra na hÉireann

IMB *NEWSLETTER*

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GENERAL

2002 IMB Information Days

Human Medicines Information Day

The Human Medicines Information day was held in the Citywest Hotel, Co Dublin on Monday, 15th April, 2002 and was attended by approximately 167 delegates.

The morning was devoted to labels and patient information leaflets and was chaired by Dr Joan Gilvarry, Medical Director of the IMB. The presentations on patient leaflets focussed on regulatory requirements and on readability issues. The session's guest speaker from the University of Cardiff, Dr Patricia Wright, spoke about the key areas of readability, usability and likeability and the valuable lessons to be learnt from studies into leaflets for the public. The guest speaker for the session on labels was Ms Aileen Barry MPSI from the Pharmacy Department in the Adelaide and Meath Hospital, who gave illustrated examples from pharmacy practice of medication errors arising from label deficiencies. This was followed by a presentation on the IMB's new policy regarding the provision of mock ups of labels and leaflets.

During the afternoon session chaired by Mr Tom McGuinn, Chief Pharmacist in the Department of Health and Children, a number of current topics of interest were discussed, including the IMB's views on the Commission's proposals for review of the pharmaceutical legislation, an update on company compliance with pharmacovigilance requirements and TSE issues and a presentation on the IMB's new Information Technology strategic plan (for details, see separate article on page 12).

Prior to the close of the meeting, there was a question and answer session which allowed for active discussion between the audience and IMB staff.

Medical Devices Information Day

A successful and very interactive Information Day for Dental Technicians took place on 18th May at the Citywest Hotel, Saggart, Co. Dublin. Guidance Note 10: Guidance Note to Custom Made Dental Device Manufacturers was launched at this meeting and an overview was given to attendees on how to meet the essential requirements of the medical device legislation.

The next Information Day for the Medical Devices Sector will be held in October aimed at general medical device sector. Details will follow on the venue and agenda in the next newsletter.

Veterinary Medicines Information Day

The Veterinary Information Day 2002 will take place in the Great Southern Hotel, Dublin Airport on Friday, 14th June 2002. The final programme for the Information Day is available on the IMB website (**http://www.imb.ie**). The IMB is pleased to confirm the participation of invited speakers from the Animal Health Industry, the Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development and the Veterinary Profession who will address the topic of availability of veterinary medicines in the context of the planned changes to the regulatory framework in Europe. Personnel from the IMB will also be present and will provide an update on recent Veterinary Unit activities and decisions. Applications must be advised to Ms. Simona Bordean (***simona.bordean@imb.ie***) as soon as possible. Be informed – be there!

Inspectorate Information Day

An Information Day has been scheduled for Friday, 27th September 2002. The venue is the Citywest Hotel, Saggart, Co. Dublin. Further details will be available on the IMB's website (**http://www.imb.ie**) in the near future.

IMB hosts European Biopharmaceutical Training Course

The IMB recently organised (7th – 9th May) a 2 1/2 days introductory training course for assessors and inspectors from the IMB and other medicinal product Regulatory authorities in Europe on the topic of "Quality Aspects of Biopharmaceutical Products". This course was the first of its type held under a new training initiative among the Heads of Agencies group. The meeting involved lectures

by experts from the IMB, EMEA, University College Cork (Dr Rosemary O'Connor) and Irish industry (Dr Bart Cronin (Schering-Plough) and Ms Linda Wolfe (Fujsawa Ltd)) as well as site visits to the Schering-Plough (Brinny) facilities. The meeting was generally considered a very helpful initiative with approximately 90% of the attendees rating the course to have been "very good to excellent". The IMB wishes to express its appreciation to all those who assisted in this initiative.

IMB and MCA work together to help Malta

The Irish Medicines Board (IMB) and Medicines Control Agency (MCA) have been successful in a bid for a 'twinning project', to help the EC accession country Malta, to implement the communities' medicines legislation and regulatory standards. This project will cover a range of regulatory issues which include:

- Providing the Maltese Regulatory Authority (MRU) through training with the capacity to assess EU type dossiers
- Designing appropriate surveillance systems and procedures intended to support pharmacovigilance of medicinal products.
- Implementing the appropriate I.T. Systems to be used within the MRU considering the current practices and developments within the EU context.
- Strengthening the capacity for enforcement of good distribution practice (GDP) and good manufacturing practice (GMP).
- Ensuring the effectiveness of the quality system adopted by the MRU.

The project will consist of three phases, an identification, implementation and a review phase. The project leader is Dr. Joan Gilvarry, Medical Director from the IMB, the pre-accession advisor is Ms. Anne Gray, Pharmaceutical Assessor from the IMB and the project co-ordinator is Mr. Damien Bishop, of the MCA Executive Support Division. It is proposed that the project will commence in September 2002 with a view to completion by the end of 2003.

Submission of Applications

The submission of applications for the following should be sent to the relevant department and not to individuals within the IMB:

Drug Master files for Human/ Veterinary medicines	Pharmaceutical Department
Clinical Trials	Clinical Trials Department
Variation applications for Human Medicines	Variations Department

Search Requests

IMB Search requests for information regarding dates of authorisation, Summary of Product Characteristics, lists of all products authorised containing a particular active ingredient etc. are now being dealt with by the NTR Unit.

All requests for Searches must now be sent directly by one of the following means:

- **by email to *ntrsearches@imb.ie***
- **by fax to 6767836**
- **by post to the NTR Unit**

The NTR Unit is also responsible for the processing of all National PA's, Transfers and Renewals - searches will be dealt with in rotation.

Website Updates

Please consult our website at **http://www.imb.ie** as updates are regularly made to it. In addition, you can now also check out any vacancies within the IMB.

Staff Changes at the IMB

New staff appointments

- Dr Barbara Tucker has recently taken up duty as half-time Medical Officer in the Medical Devices Unit
- Drs Helena Daly and Ria Mahon will take up duty as Medical Officers in June and July 2002.
- Mr Paul Sexton and Mr Kevin O'Donnell have joined the Inspectorate team.
- Ms Pauline Keena recently joined the team of Pharmaceutical Assessors and Mr Mirza Catibusic and Mr Edward Reilly will also take up duty as Pharmaceutical Assessors in June and July.

Staff changes:

- Ms Muireann Lydon and Mr Stan O'Neill have been appointed as Senior Inspectors.

HUMAN MEDICINES:

Legislation and Guidelines

Adopted Notes for Guidance

- CPMP/QWP/1719/00 Note for Guidance on Medicinal Gases: Pharmaceutical Documentation (CPMP adopted January 02)
- CPMP/QWP/2845/00 Note for Guidance on Requirements for Pharmaceutical Documentation for Pressurised Metered Dose Inhalation Products (CPMP adopted March 02)
- CPMP/EWP/518/97 *Revision 1* Note for Guidance on Clinical Investigation of Medicinal Products in Treatment of Depression (CPMP adopted April 2002)
- CPMP/EWP/714/98 *Revision 1* Note for Guidance on the Clinical Investigation of Medicinal Products in the treatment of Peripheral Arterial Occlusive Disease(CPMP adopted April 2002)
- Topic Q3A, Step 4 Note for Guidance on Impurities Testing: Impurities in New Drug Substances (CPMP/ICH/2737/99 (Revision of CPMP/ICH/142/95) – adopted February 2002)
- Topic Q1D, Step 4 Note for Guidance on Bracketing and Matrixing Designs for Stability Testing of Drug Substances and Drug Products (CPMP/ICH/4104/00 – adopted February 2002) – Replaces NFG on Bracketing and Matrixing CPMP/ICH/157/96
- Topic Q3C(M), Step 5 Maintenance for Note for Guidance on Impurities: Residual Solvents – Type of Maintenance: Updating based on new information (CPMP/ICH/283/95 adopted April 2002)

Better medicines for Children: Proposed Regulatory Actions on Paediatric Medicinal Products

The recently published European Commission Consultation document 'Better medicines for Children: Proposed Regulatory Actions on Paediatric Medicinal Products' presents a strong reference point for the creation of a European framework for developing medicines appropriate to the health needs of children. This document provides a first response to the Council for Health Minister's Resolution on Paediatric Medicinal products. The absence of authorised medicinal products to treat children has been a concern for some time. It is estimated that over 50% of medicines used particularly in specialised medicine have never actually been studied for use in this group. The objectives of the Commission are six fold and can be summarised as follows:

- To increase the availability of authorised medicinal products, which are suitably adapted to the needs of children of the different age groups.
- To ensure that pharmacovigilance mechanisms are adapted to meet the challenges of the possible long-term effects in specific cases.
- To facilitate the avoidance of unnecessary studies through the publication of details of clinical trials

already initiated and better exchange of information.

- Establish a list of priorities for research on existing authorised medicinal products in accordance with public health needs and which may include priorities in different therapeutic classes.

- Develop European excellence in the field of research development and assessment of clinical trials with paediatric medicinal products

- Ensure the highest ethical standards are met as laid down by the specific provisions for the protection of children in the recently adopted directive on clinical trials.

To achieve these objectives the thrust of the Commissions proposal lies in achieving the right combination of incentives and regulatory obligations. The incentives are in the areas of market exclusivity and funding and can be summarised as follows:

- Where protection of intellectual property exists it is proposed to introduce an additional period of market exclusivity as a reward for submitting one or more validated clinical studies in children of one or more age groups.

  Where no intellectual exclusivity exists it is proposed to introduce a period of data protection for marketing authorisation with a paediatric indication through the creation of a new type of 'Kid marketing authorisation'.

- Creation of a EU level fund, which could be used to fund clinical and non-clinical paediatric research. It is also proposed to investigate the existing national and community sources of research funding.

Around the incentives and obligations the Commission also proposes the establishment of supporting mechanisms that will assist in regulatory decision-making. These supporting mechanisms include the creation of a central database, establishment of an EMEA paediatric expert group, encouraging international submissions to the European Union, requiring dedicated follow-up pharmacovigilance studies and the establishment of a pan European network of clinical excellence. With the creation of these five supporting structures, the Commission hopes not only to encourage more research in paediatric medicines but also to develop European capacity and knowledge in the field in the long term.

This proposal from the Commission though admittedly based on the experience in the US is forward looking and robust. There are some issues, which need clarification, in particular, the length of the period of proposed exclusivity and how the research will be funded. This proposal is welcomed and presents an approach that will not only encourage and oblige but also support research for better medicines for children.

TSE Issues

Those PA holders who have products for which an EDQM TSE certificate is outstanding are advised that these certificates, once issued by the EDQM, should be forwarded by the PA holder to the IMB as soon as possible.

Those companies that have failed to respond to requests for TSE data even where the products are not marketed, face revocation of their authorisations.

Lactose/Milk Products

A Public Statement on lactose produced using calf rennet has been issued by the CPMP (EMEA/CPMP/571/02). This type of lactose is considered to be outside the scope of the TSE guideline if the applicant confirms that

- the lactose is produced only from milk sourced from healthy animals in the same conditions as milk collected for human consumption, and

- the lactose is prepared without the use of ruminant materials other than calf rennet.

The same approach can be taken for other products derived from whey, such as lactulose, galactose and ethanol.

Label and leaflet mock ups

Applicants are reminded of the requirement for mock ups of the packaging and package leaflet in line with article 8.3 of Directive 2001/83/EEC. This requirement applies to new applications, renewals and relevant variations specified in the *Guidance for Submission of Mock ups of Packaging and Package Leaflets* available on the IMB website (**http://www.imb.ie**).

In particular attention is drawn to the requirements for submission of final mockups. Final mockups will be requested as specified in the guidance and must be returned to the IMB with each page dated and signed by the applicant. The IMB website also contains frequently asked questions (FAQ's) regarding this guidance.

Common Technical Document (CTD)

From 1st July 2003, all applications for new products and all variation applications must be in the CTD format. Details of this new format of dossiers is given on the website of the European Commissions at **http://pharmacos.eudra.org/F2/eudralex/vol-2/B/ctdoct01.pdf**.

Administrative issues regarding the submission of dossiers next year are being addressed by the European Commission through the Notice to Applicants Working Party, to ensure a harmonised approach by all Member States. The European Commission has put together a Questions and Answers paper, available at **http://pharmacos.eudra.org/F2/eudralex/vol-2/B/CTD-QA.pdf** which deals with questions on the submission of the following:

- mixed format dossiers
- variation applications,
- re-formatting of existing dossiers
- applications for line extensions
- abridged applications
- applications for herbal medicinal products
- MR applications
- submission of Certificates of Suitability for drug substances

On the question of re-formatting of existing dossiers, the document states that there is no obligation on companies to do so but that the quality section may be re-formatted and submitted, preferably in conjunction with a variation, renewal or line extension application after 1st July 2003. Such re-formatting is not considered to be a variation and the issues of fees is for national authorities. Due to space constraints, the IMB would prefer companies to re-format dossiers only where absolutely necessary. Variation, renewal and line extension applications in the new CTD format will be acceptable, with cross-references to existing dossiers in NTA format where necessary. If re-formatted dossiers are submitted, they should be sent to the Variations Unit, accompanied by the necessary declarations as outlined in the Commission's document and a simple variation fee per PA.

PA holders are advised to consult the Commission's paper well in advance of 1st July 2003, so that they are fully prepared for submitting applications in the correct format next year. The document will be updated by the Commission as new questions arise.

Dosing of Oral Liquid Medicinal Products

Authorisation holders are reminded that when giving directions using the standard 5ml spoonful for multi-dose liquid oral preparations, the information presented for dosing instructions on label and package literature text should refer to '5 ml spoonfuls and multiples thereof and not 'teaspoonfuls, dessertspoonfuls etc'. It should be noted that a 'teaspoon' is significantly different from a regulated 5 ml spoon.

Where the volumes to be administered exceed 5 ml, applicants should give some consideration to providing a dosing cup with each container/original pack of liquid preparations for oral use. The container to be graduated in appropriate increments to facilitate dosing administration.

Clinical Trials

Submission of Adverse Drug Reactions to the Clinical Trials Unit

Further to previous guidance on the submission of suspected adverse drug reactions to the Clinical Trial Unit, we wish to inform you of a change in procedure (*see IMB Quarterly Newsletter, Issue No. 7, April - September 2000*).

This guidance entitled: **Submission of adverse event/adverse reaction reports to the IMB** stated that:

"Non-Irish, clinical trial, expedited ADR reports for products which are both under investigation and marketed in Ireland should be submitted to both the Clinical Trials Unit and the Pharmacovigilance Unit of the IMB".

Due to a change in internal procedure, these categories of reports need now only be submitted to the Clinical Trials Unit of the IMB.

All other categories of reports should continue to be submitted as previously advised (*IMB Quarterly Newsletter, Issue No. 7, April - September 2000*).

Please note the following:

- Post marketing surveillance study reports should be sent to the Clinical Trials Unit.
- Reports which qualify for expedited reporting as per ICH E2A, should be unblinded prior to reporting.
- All correspondence should include reference to the Irish Medicines Board Clinical Trial number and the relevant protocol number.
- All categories of reports (non-Irish/ Irish) should be submitted under separate cover and clearly identified according to type (initial/follow-up).

As of 1st May 2002, the Irish Medicines Board will issue reference numbers for ADR reports originating in Ireland only. In addition to the IMB's clinical trial number, these numbers should also be quoted on any relevant follow-up correspondence.

TSE Compliance for Clinical Trials

In accordance with IMB policy *(IMB Newsletter, Issue No.8, October 2000 - March 2001)*, applicants are expected to address the issue of TSE safety in Category 3a and 3b applications for clinical trial permissions and renewal of permissions, for all components of the test formulation, placebo and any excipients used in processing of comparators (also for any amendments affecting formulation).

The TSE Declaration Form on the IMB website **(http://www.imb.ie)** is now incorporated as a section in the application forms in respect of category 3 trials (new and amendment), and these updated versions of the forms should be downloaded for use.

A completed TSE declaration is now a standard requirement, so please ensure the updated forms are used, in order to avoid delays in validation of applications.

INSPECTORATE

Sampling & Analysis

The IMB has in place an on-going programme for the sampling and analysis of medicinal products. Pre-marketed and post-marketed products are included in the programme. Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) are also included.

Samples are obtained where possible from the marketplace, but companies may also be requested to provide samples (as well as other items, such as reference materials, which may be required in order to perform the analysis).

Products will be subjected to chemical and/or microbiological testing, depending on the nature of the product. Labelling compliance may also be assessed during this work.

Products will generally be tested using the current company analytical method. This method should be the method registered with the IMB.

Experience to date has identified a number of problems when company analytical methods have been used by

IMB analytical testing facilities. Companies should be aware that the analytical methods provided by them should be such that testing of the product can be carried out by an independent testing laboratory. Failure of company methods to facilitate such testing shall require follow-up regulatory action by IMB.

MRAs Update

The latest updates are available from

http://www.emea.eu.int/pdfs/technical/mra

Protocols to the Europe Agreements on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products (PECAs)

The GMP and batch certification annex of the PECA with Hungary came into force on 1st December 2001 and with the Czech Republic on 1st January 2002.

Further information is available at
http://dg3.eudra.org/F2/pharmacos/gmp_doc.htm

Further information on the PECAs is available at **http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/regulation/pecas/pecas.htm**

Clinical Trials Directive

It was the intention of the IMB to incorporate this into the new manufacturing regulations, but it is now being overtaken by the need to implement the Directive in a timely manner. The deadline for implementation is May 2003.

The GMP requirements will generally be in line with those currently expected from commercial product manufacturers with the exception that process validation requirements will be less rigorous.

The IMB have not yet decided whether there will be different licensing requirements for clinical trial activities or whether the manufacturing license will cover clinical materials.

Sterility testing of aseptically filled products

Companies are reminded that sterility testing of such products should be performed on samples taken from the beginning and end of fill and after any significant intervention.

VETERINARY MEDICINES

Legislation and Guidelines

The following have been adopted by the CVMP from January 2002 to April 2002:

The Committee endorsed a revised list of substances considered as not falling within the scope of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90 to include casein hydrolysate and collagen hydrolysate used as excipients (EMEA/CVMP/046/00-Rev.3).

Notes for Guidance:

- Guideline on Safety Evaluation of Antimicrobial Substances Regarding the Effects on Human Gut Flora (EMEA/CVMP/234/01-FINAL).
- Guideline on the processing of renewals in the centralised procedure (EMEA/CVMP/695/01-FINAL).
- Guideline on In-Use stability testing of veterinary medicinal products (excluding immunological veterinary products (EMEA/CVMP/424/01-FINAL).

SOPs:

Revised SOP on Procedure for Management of Periodic Safety Update Reports (PSURs) (CVMP/SOP/692/99-Rev.1).

Validation of applications for product authorisation

Applicants are again reminded to use the latest updated application form as outlined in the Notice to Applicants, Volume 6B as updated by the EU Commission on their web site (**http://dg3.eudra.org/F2/eudralex/vol-6/B/part1a-vet.doc**). Use of previous versions of the application form results in delays and possible

non-validation of the application within the standard timeframes.

Requirements for the Number of Dossiers to be Submitted:

The Veterinary Unit of the IMB has revised the number of copies of documentation to be submitted to it, in order to minimise the burden on applicant companies. The following copies are requested.

Pharmaceuticals

- National New Products:

  Two copies of Part I and one copy of Parts II, III and IV.

- Mutual Recognition Applications where Ireland is the Reference Member State:

  Two copies of Part I and one copy of Parts II, III and IV.

- Mutual Recognition Applications where Ireland is a Concerned Member State:

  Two copies of Part 1 and one copy (either paper copy or CD Rom) of Parts II, III and IV.

- National Variations:

  One copy of the application form and one copy of the supporting documentation except for variations that require both quality and safety/efficacy input in which case two copies of application form, one copy of the Part II data and one copy of Part III/IV data are required.

- Mutual Recognition Variations where Ireland is the Reference Member State:

  One copy of the application form and one copy of the supporting documentation except for variations that require both quality and safety/efficacy input in which case two copies of application form, one copy of the Part II data and one copy of Part III/IV data are required.

- Mutual Recognition Variations where Ireland is a Concerned Member State:

  One copy of the application form and one copy (either paper copy or CD Rom) of the supporting documentation except for variations that require both quality and safety/efficacy input in which case two copies of application form, one copy of the Part II data and one copy of Part III/IV data are required. The Part II, III and IV data may be submitted as paper copy or on CD Rom.

- Renewals (National and Mutual Recognition):

  Two copies of all the required documentation. The documentation should be submitted in the format detailed in the IMB renewal application form, which is posted on the web.

Immunologicals

- National New Products:

  One complete copy of the documentation to the IMB and one copy of Part I to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (DAFRD).

- Mutual Recognition Applications where Ireland is the Reference Member State:

  One complete copy of the documentation to the IMB and one copy of Part I to the DAFRD.

- Mutual Recognition Applications where Ireland is a Concerned Member State:

  One complete copy of the documentation to the IMB and one copy of Part I to the DAFRD.

- National Variations:

  One complete copy of the documentation should be submitted to the IMB and one complete copy to the DAFRD.

- Mutual Recognition Variations where Ireland is the Reference Member State:

  One complete copy of the documentation should be

submitted to the IMB and one complete copy to the DAFRD.

- Mutual Recognition Variations where Ireland is a Concerned Member State:

  One complete copy of the documentation should be submitted to the IMB and one complete copy to the DAFRD.

- Renewals (National and Mutual Recognition):

  One complete copy of the documentation should be submitted to the IMB and one copy of Part I to the DAFRD.

IMB policy in relation to implementation of packaging changes

Applicant companies are reminded of the obligation to update product labelling in accordance with any changes to the conditions of the product authorisation resulting from approval of an application to renew/vary the licence. Recently, the IMB has taken regulatory action against a number of products where the product labelling was found not to be in compliance with the terms of the authorisation. As a result of these actions, the Advisory Committee for Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) has requested the Veterinary Secretariat to initiate discussions with the Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development and the Animal Health Industry on the development of a 'best practice' guide for the implementation of approved packaging changes to authorised animal remedies. The ACVM is conscious of the safety, legal and practical considerations which arise from changes to the product authorisation and of the role of the Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development in ensuring that animal remedies are used in accordance with the conditions of their marketing authorisations. Consultations with the Department are ongoing. It is expected that a discussion document will be prepared shortly which will be circulated to interested parties for comment prior to consideration by the ACVM.

Initiation of Mutual Recognition Procedure

The Veterinary Unit has recently received confirmation from the European Commission that when the IMB is informed that a veterinary medicinal product, which has been submitted to the IMB for national approval, has been authorised by another Member State, the procedure outlined in Article 22 of Directive 2001/82/EC must be applied.

This procedure obliges the IMB to:-

- request the first Member State which granted the authorisation to forward the Assessment Report, and
- within 90 days of receipt of the report, to recognise the decision of the first Member State or, if it cannot, to refer the issue to the European Medicines Evaluation Agency for binding arbitration.

As stated in the Notice to Applicants, independent national procedures can continue to be followed for veterinary medicinal products with a well established use demonstrated in accordance with Article 13(1)(a)(ii) of Directive 2001/82/EC (bibliographic applications).

Applicants should be aware that this procedure is obligatory on the IMB, even in respect of those applications where the national evaluation is nearing completion. Moreover, if the first Member State needs to prepare or update its Assessment Report, a delay in the time to national authorisation in Ireland will result. Applicants are recommended to consult with the first Member State which grants authorisation, to ensure that the Assessment Report is available so that delays in the licensing of the product in Ireland can be avoided.

Suspected Adverse Reactions to Veterinary Medicinal Products – 2001

The Irish Medicines Board (IMB) received 51 reports of suspected adverse reactions (SARs) to veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) between 1st January 2001 and 31st December 2001. Forty-four reports were received from the marketing authorisation holder (MAH), six directly

from veterinary surgeons in practice and one from a regional veterinary laboratory.

Of the total number of SARs reported, 40 involved veterinary pharmaceutical products and 20 concerned vaccines. The majority of SAR reports related to single VMPs, with two or more VMPs identified in only seven reports.

Seven of the reports related to lack of efficacy. Of the remaining reports, the product(s) used was considered to have been probably or possibly associated with the observed reaction in 21 cases.

A detailed report of the SAR's for 2001 will shortly be available on the IMB website **(http://www.imb.ie)** or, alternatively, a hard copy may be requested from the veterinary department.

Warning for Mineral Oil Containing Products

The CVMP have issued the following recommendation for harmonised wording regarding inadvertent injection/self-injection of mineral oil containing veterinary medicinal products.

For the Summary of Product Characteristics under 'Special precautions to be taken by the person administering the veterinary medicinal product to animal', and the Package Insert under point 9. 'Special warning(s), if necessary' the following wording is suggested:

"To the user:

This product contains mineral oil. Accidental injection/self injection may result in severe pain and swelling, particularly if injected into a joint or finger, and in rare cases could result in the loss of the affected finger if prompt medical attention is not given.

If you are accidentally injected with this product, seek prompt medical advice even if only a very small amount is injected and take the package insert with you.

If pain persists for more than 12 hours after medical examination, seek medical advice again.

To the physician:

This product contains mineral oil. Even if small amounts have been injected, accidental injection with this product can cause intense swelling, which may, for example, result in ischaemic necrosis and even the loss of a digit. Expert, PROMPT, surgical attention is required and may necessitate early incision and irrigation of the injected area, especially where there is involvement of finger pulp or tendon."

For the immediate packaging and for the outer carton the following wording is suggested:

"Accidental injection is dangerous – see package insert before use"

VPA holders are advised that they may change the SPCs and product literature for relevant products by way of variation and no fee will be charged for this process, provided such applications are made before 31st December 2002.

HERBAL MEDICINES

Herbal Medicines Project Update

Herbal Medicines Project Seminar

Following submission of final report of the Herbal Medicines Project to the Department of Health and Children in January 2002, the Minister for Health and Children, Michéal Martin, requested that the IMB hold a seminar on the 'Implications of the Proposed Interim National Licensing Scheme'. The Department of Health and Children kindly agreed to provide financial support for the seminar.

The seminar was held on 2nd May 2002 in the Hilton Dublin Hotel, Charlemont Place, Dublin 2. Approximately 111 people attended the seminar. Representatives from the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (2) and the Department of Health and Children (3) were also present on the day .

Mr. Richard Woodfield from the Medicines Control Agency in the UK provided an update on the proposed

Directive on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products and Dr. Desmond Corrigan (School of Pharmacy, Trinity College, Dublin) presented the keynote address. In addition to the four IMB speakers, representatives from the health trade, health food stores as well as a herbalist and a consumer speaker made presentations on the day.

Feedback on the day and subsequent correspondence from a number of attendees has indicated that overall the seminar was considered to be positive and successful in its aim to provide a forum for discussion for all interested parties.

Establishment of a Traditional Medicinal Products Database

The traditional medicinal products information database will be reviewed over the coming months. Any additional or updated information from individual companies would be welcome for inclusion on the database during the course of the review.

European Developments

The European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMEA) recently agreed that the Herbal Medicinal Products Working Party, previously reporting to the EMEA Management Board, should become a full working party of the Committee on Proprietary Medicinal Products (CPMP).

Finally, The European Commission draft Directive on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products agreed in January of this year is due to be discussed at a Council working group on 10th June 2002.

IMB IT STRATEGIC PLAN – The N*IMB*US Program

The IT Strategic Plan now entitled the N**IMB**US program is actively underway.

The principal components of the proposed programme include the following:-

A. Business & Technology Infrastructure Projects:

- Business Architecture & Organisational Structure Review
- Technical Infrastructure
- Document Quality Improvement

B. Technology Projects:

- New Improved On-line Tracking & Application Services for the Web
- Workflow Technology
- Document Management Technology
- Management Information Systems

C. Business Transformation Projects:

- Technology & Re-designed processes to support the National and European Licensing Activities for Human Medicines

Three separate RFP's (requests for proposals) in respect of the individual project components have been prepared and distributed. The most significant project covers the bulk of the IT strategic plan components and represents the single greatest investment by the IMB. In line with EU legislation regarding public procurement, this project went to an open tender procedure in early March. A number of companies provided comprehensive responses and these are now going through a formal evaluation process.

A Contractor has been selected for the Project concerned with the business architecture and organisational structure of the IMB and this will commence in mid-June.

The remaining projects will be decided upon when the above projects are underway.

MEDICAL DEVICES

The IMB has decided that it will publish a separate Medical Devices Newsletter, the first edition of which will be issued in July 2002. We aim to publish this electronically and individuals wishing to be on the mailing list should contact the IMB by email ***medicaldevices@imb.ie*** with their email address details etc.

HUMAN NEW PRODUCT AUTHORISATIONS ISSUED (JANUARY - APRIL 2002)

PA Number	Product Name	PA Number	Product Name
PA0013/053/003	LESCOL XL	PA0823/026/002	ORALDENE ICEMINT
PA0057/054/007	AEROLIN AUTOHALER CFC - FREE	PA0913/014/008	ADIZEM-XL
PA0057/065/002	AIROMIR AUTOHALER	PA0930/005/001	THWART
PA0256/005/001	PREGNACARE	PA0946/001/001	KOLANTICON
PA0281/093/001	PINACLAV	PA0979/021/002	LEMSIP CHILDRENS SIX+ COLD & FLU RELIEF
PA0281/093/002	PINACLAV		
PA0281/093/003	PINACLAV	PPA0465/051/002	KLACID FORTE
PA0323/003/002	SOMATULINE AUTOGEL	PPA0465/082/001	CIPROXIN
PA0323/003/003	SOMATULINE AUTOGEL	PPA0465/082/002	CIPROXIN
PA0323/003/004	SOMATULINE AUTOGEL	PPA0465/083/001	NEXIUM
PA0690/012/001	TECHNESCAN LYOMAA	PPA0465/083/002	NEXIUM
PA0711/034/001	SOLOL	PPA0465/085/001	EFEXOR
PA0711/034/002	SOLOL	PPA0465/085/002	EFEXOR

HUMAN PRODUCT AUTHORISATIONS WITHDRAWN (JANUARY - APRIL 2002)

PA Number	Product Name	PA Number	Product Name
PA0006/031/002	CHLORAMPHENICOL	PA0281/098/002	DOMPERIDONE
PA0007/002/003	ATROVENT FORTE	PA0281/098/003	DOMPERIDONE
PA0017/004/001	DARAPRIM	PA0281/098/004	DOMPERIDONE
PA0022/074/001	LYRELLE 50	PA0281/038/002	PINIFED
PA0022/074/002	LYRELLE 80	PA0281/058/001	DICLO-DICLOFENAC ENTERIC COATED
PA0035/002/005	TRYPTIZOL		
PA0038/009/001	ERYTHROPED FORTE	PA0281/058/002	DICLO-DICLOFENAC ENTERIC COATED
PA0038/009/009	ERYTHROPED		
PA0038/009/010	ERYTHROPED	PA0410/002/001	VALDISPERT
PA0038/009/011	ERYTHROPED P.I. SINGLE DOSE	PA0410/002/002	VALDISPERT FORTE
PA0038/009/012	ERYTHROPED SINGLE DOSE	PA0490/001/001	PARACETAMOL
PA0040/026/007	STEMETIL	PA0568/006/001	PREVILEX
PA0061/005/001	SODIUM CHLORIDE	PA0577/017/001	NIFEDIPINE
PA0077/004/001	FORTAGESIC	PA0577/017/002	NIFEDIPINE
PA0077/009/001	OXYPERTINE	PA0581/001/001	MENTADENT P MINT FLAVOUR
PA0077/122/001	FRANOL SR	PA0581/001/002	MENTADENT P TOOTHPASTE ORIGINAL FLAVOUR
PA0077/122/002	FRANOL SR		
PA0077/122/003	FRANOL SR	PA0591/001/001	EPIESTROL
PA0077/144/001	MIGRAMAX	PA0591/001/002	EPIESTROL
PA0077/153/003	TILDIEM INJECTABLE	PA0591/001/003	EPIESTROL
PA0077/153/004	TILDIEM INJECTABLE	PA0592/001/001	INTRAGLOBIN F (FLUID)
PA0077/155/001	DOLMATIL	PA0592/001/002	INTRAGLOBIN F (FLUID)
PA0077/155/002	DOLMATIL	PA0748/018/001	DROLEPTAN
PA0126/028/002	TIPERAL	PA0773/002/001	PENTASPAN
PA0126/037/001	TIPROCIN	PA0822/001/001	LUSTRAL
PA0126/042/001	TIPROCIN	PA0822/001/002	LUSTRAL
PA0126/098/001	CO-TENOMEL	PA0822/001/003	LUSTRAL
PA0126/098/002	CO-TENOMEL	PA0822/001/006	LUSTRAL
PA0281/010/001	TETRACYCLINE	PA0826/001/001	PREFIL
PA0281/018/001	INDOMETHACIN	PA0872/006/001	FEMAPAK 40 (PATCH AND TABLETS)
PA0281/018/002	INDOMETHACIN	PA0872/006/002	FEMAPAK 80 (PATCH AND TABLETS)
PA0281/038/001	PINIFED	PA0964/002/001	NORCURON
PA0281/098/001	DOMPERIDONE	PPA0465/038/001	ZOVIRAX

HUMAN NEW PRODUCT AUTHORISATIONS ISSUED (MUTUAL RECOGNITION) (JANUARY - APRIL 2002)

PA Number	Product Name	PA Number	Product Name
PA0012/076/002	FLUDARA ORAL	PA0549/010/002	FENOFIBRATE ETHYPHARM
PA0012/093/001	RESOVIST	PA0568/009/001	PERINDOPRIL-INDAPAMIDE
PA0013/098/001	RIAMET	PA0577/045/001	CEFAGER
PA0013/100/001	NYOGEL	PA0577/045/002	CEFAGER
PA0013/110/001	ESTRADOT 37.5	PA0678/077/001	INFANRIX-IPV+HIB
PA0013/110/002	ESTRADOT 50	PA0678/077/002	INFANRIX-IPV+HIB
PA0013/110/003	ESTRADOT 75	PA0711/039/001	ZOLNOD
PA0013/110/004	ESTRADOT 100	PA0740/002/001	MELOXAT
PA0019/052/001	GEODON	PA0771/004/001	RECOFOL
PA0019/052/002	GEODON	PA0771/004/002	RECOFOL
PA0019/052/003	GEODON	PA0771/004/003	RECOFOL
PA0019/052/004	GEODON	PA0771/004/004	RECOFOL
PA0019/052/005	GEODON	PA0775/001/007	MOBIC
PA0035/092/001	CEOXX	PA0827/002/001	ACTIQ
PA0035/092/002	CEOXX	PA0819/008/001	LISINOPRIL-RATIOPHARM
PA0077/140/004	GABITRIL	PA0819/008/002	LISINOPRIL-RATIOPHARM
PA0126/117/001	NYTAMEL	PA0819/008/003	LISINOPRIL-RATIOPHARM
PA0126/117/002	NYTAMEL	PA0819/008/004	LISINOPRIL-RATIOPHARM
PA0141/028/001	LIPOSIC	PA0819/009/001	LISINOPRIL-RATIO
PA0172/029/002	ADVIL LIQUIGEL	PA0819/009/002	LISINOPRIL-RATIO
PA0218/053/001	NOVOFEM	PA0819/009/003	LISINOPRIL-RATIO
PA0271/011/001	IDROLAX	PA0819/009/004	LISINOPRIL-RATIO
PA0281/110/001	ZIRPINE	PA0827/002/002	ACTIQ
PA0437/046/001	MIDAZOLAM INJECTION	PA0827/002/003	ACTIQ
PA0437/046/002	MIDAZOLAM INJECTION	PA0827/002/004	ACTIQ
PA0437/046/003	MIDAZOLAM INJECTION	PA0827/002/005	ACTIQ
PA0437/047/001	ETOPOSIDE	PA0827/002/006	ACTIQ
PA0549/009/001	ETHYPHARM KETOPROFEN SR	PA0937/002/001	MORPHINE SULPHATE
PA0549/009/002	ETHYPHARM KETOPROFEN SR	PA0937/002/002	MORPHINE SULPHATE
PA0167/110/001	PENTASTARCH	PA0937/002/003	MORPHINE SULPHATE
PA0167/110/002	PENTASTARCH	PA0937/002/004	MORPHINE SULPHATE
PA0277/082/001	ASMANEX TWISTHALER	PA0967/002/001	AMOXICO
PA0277/082/002	ASMANEX TWISTHALER	PA0967/002/002	AMOXICO
PA0310/005/001	SIMCOR	PA0969/002/001	LISOPRESS
PA0310/005/002	SIMCOR	PA0969/002/002	LISOPRESS
PA0310/005/003	SIMCOR	PA0969/002/003	LISOPRESS
PA0623/004/001	BCG-S-MEDAC	PA0969/002/004	LISOPRESS
PA0775/001/008	MOBIC	PA1024/001/001	METVIC CREAM
PA0549/010/001	FENOFIBRATE ETHYPHARM	PA1025/001/001	DOVOBET

HUMAN PRODUCT AUTHORISATIONS WITHDRAWN (MUTUAL RECOGNITION) (JANUARY - APRIL 2002)

PA Number	Product Name	PA Number	Product Name
PA0965/001/001	OMEPRAZOLE	PA1009/008/001	ZOMACTON

HUMAN CENTRALISED PRODUCT AUTHORISATIONS ISSUED (JANUARY - APRIL 2002)

PA Number	Product Name	PA Number	Product Name
EU/1/01/200/001	VIREAD FILM-COATED	EU/1/02/205/001	LUMIGAN
EU/1/02/203/001	KINERET	EU/1/02/206/001	ARIXTRA
EU/1/02/203/002	KINERET	EU/1/02/206/002	ARIXTRA
EU/1/02/203/003	KINERET	EU/1/02/206/003	ARIXTRA
EU/1/02/203/004	KINERET	EU/1/02/206/004	ARIXTRA
EU/1/02/204/001	TRISENOX		

VETERINARY NEW PRODUCT AUTHORISATIONS ISSUED (MUTUAL RECOGNITION) (JANUARY - APRIL 2002)

PA Number	Product Name	PA Number	Product Name
10019/019/004	ADVOCIN 180	10846/001/001	HIPRAGENITAL
10021/043/001	EQUITAPE HORSE PASTE	10850/003/001	EQUIMAX
10277/072/001	OPTIMMUNE OPHTHALMIC	10897/001/001	DELTA APOMORPHINE HYDROCHLORIDE BP
10277/086/001	NUFLOR DRINKING WATER CONCENTRATE FOR SWINE	10960/043/001	FASIFREE 10%
10545/024/001	FLUBENOL 50% PREMIX	10987/053/001	CHAN BROAD SPEC GOLD (SUSPENSION)
10827/001/001	PROACTIVE	10996/159/001	ERYSORB PLUS
10829/001/001	MASTICARE (READY-TO-USE TEAT DIP)	10999/097/001	NOROMECTIN MULTI INJECTION
10835/039/001	CLIK 5% POUR-ON		

VETERINARY PRODUCT AUTHORISATIONS WITHDRAWN (JANUARY - APRIL 2002)

PA Number	Product Name	PA Number	Product Name
10126/059/001	BIMAVITE PLUS	10997/006/002	SULPHADIMIDINE
10996/041/001	KETOL	10997/008/001	INTERTRIM BOLUS
10997/006/001	SULPHADIMIDINE	10997/026/002	COPPERPHARM INJECTION