



Wholesale Bulletin

Monthly Service for wholesalers

Volume 15

European prescriptions legally valid in the UK

UK community pharmacists will be able to dispense prescriptions written by European doctors and dentists from this month.

The RPSGB and the NPA have issued guidance on legislation, came into effect on November 3, that makes prescriptions issued in the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland legally valid in the UK.

Both organisations stressed that the regulations did not compel UK pharmacists to dispense such prescriptions. "The pharmacist can therefore continue to make a professional decision on the appropriateness of supply and refuse where necessary," the NPA said.

Pharmacists "may" need to check an EEA or Swiss doc-

tor or dentist's registration with the corresponding country's relevant authority, a Society Law and Ethics Bulletin said, in order to be satisfied a prescription was legally valid. The bulletin offered no further guidance on the situations that might make this check necessary.

The legislation allows pharmacists to make an emergency supply for a patient originally prescribed a

medicine by an EEA or Swiss doctor or dentist, but does not permit the dispensing of European prescriptions for controlled drugs (schedules 1 to 5) under any circumstances.

EEA and Swiss prescriptions will be classed as private prescriptions under the regulations.



Regional wholesaler lobbies Conservatives against distribution deals

Direct to pharmacy (DTP) and selective distribution schemes are threatening the UK pharmaceutical wholesale market, the shadow government has been warned. Shadow health minister Mark Simmonds last week visited regional wholesaler Maltby's headquarters in Lincoln, where he heard from director Anthony

Maltby that revised wholesaling models were threatening its position as a full line wholesaler. "The future is bleak," Mr Maltby said, of the decisions by increasing numbers of manufacturers to use a limited number of wholesalers. "We may be able to adapt and evolve, but we will not be able to provide the comprehen-

sive service that we have done in the past." Conservative MP for Boston and Skegness, said the information was "most helpful". The visit came as the NPA highlighted the community pharmacy perspective on DTP at a forum attended by supply chain and manufacturer representatives.

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Inside this Issue

European prescriptions legally valid in the UK

Regional wholesaler lobbies Conservatives against distribution deals

AAH chief: postpone all parts of PPRS

Take Over and Merger's

PSNC backs AAH discount change

WaveData — Top ten products

Special points of Interest:

This bulletin is free to interested wholesaler employees

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AAH chief: postpone all parts of PPRS

AAH chief Mark James has called for a three-month freeze on the introduction of all parts of the revised PPRS.

He said: "I can see no pressing need to rush ahead when so much remains unclear and so many concerns unaddressed."

The comments follow last week's decision to postpone price cuts to off-patent branded drugs until April. There was no danger of shortages on these products as generic alternatives existed, Mr James said.

However, he stressed that potential supply problems for other branded drugs remained unresolved, adding that wholesalers remained in the dark over stock compensation in the wake of PPRS cuts this January.

He said: "These are now more than enough reasons to push back the timescales and I hope the Department will do so."



WaveData – Top ten products

According to wavedata, these are the products most looked at in searches of the online pricing data at www.wavedata.net

Both uk and pi prices were viewed for each product, giving some indication of where the focus was in October 08

Lansoprazole Caps 15mg 28

Lansoprazole Caps 30mg 28

Citalopram Tabs 40mg 28

Perindopril Tabs 2mg 30

Tamsulosin MR Caps 400mcg 30

Alendronate Tabs 70mg 4

Bicalutamide Tabs 50mg 28

Minocycline MR Caps 100mg 56

Omeprazole Caps 20mg 28

Bicalutamide Tabs 150mg 28

Take Over and Acquisitions

Teva have purchased Barr Pharmaceuticals 'and hence Pliva as well (owned by Barr)'

Acambis has been successfully acquired by Sanofi –Aventis

Lilly to acquire SGX Pharmaceuticals

PSNC backs AAH discount change

PSNC has backed AAH's decision to apply standard discount to drugs ordered direct from manufacturers.

The contract negotiator said the move will help protect contractors against dispensing at a loss in the face of growing branded drug shortages.

PSNC's comment came after AAH announced on October 29 that it will apply normal discount rates for qualifying ethical medicines ordered direct from drugs firms.

Lindsay McClure, head of information services at PSNC, said: "PSNC is grateful that AAH have listened to their customers' concerns and have agreed to amend their discount terms."

Direct supply from manufacturers was on the rise as parallel exporting and quotas stretched stock levels, PSNC stressed. It added that the trend was putting contractors under unrealistic strain.

Ms McClure said: "Ordering directly from manufacturers imposes a workload burden on pharmacy contractors and there is growing evidence that, in some cases, this is resulting in delays to patient care."

I will be issuing the next bulletin on the 12th December 08, please let me know by the 5th December 08 if you would like to add or suggest any articles/comments

If you have any colleagues who would like to receive this, please let them know about it.

You can view all copies of the Wholesale Bulletin at www.wavedata.co.uk

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