

MEDICAL ARTS PHARMACY NEWSLETTER

HEALTH *Matters*

A MONTHLY RESOURCE TO HELP KEEP YOU INFORMED

January-February 2008



New medication joins the ranks of diabetes treatment.

Sitagliptin, marketed as Januvia is now available in Canada. This oral antihyperglycemic agent is indicated in combination with metformin in adult patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus. Januvia is a highly selective inhibitor of the dipeptidyl peptidase 4 (DPP-4) enzyme that enhances incretin hormones. The DPP-4 inhibitor is a novel class of agents which decreases hepatic glucose production and increases insulin synthesis and release resulting in a decrease in blood glucose levels. The recommended dosage is 100mg

once a day with or without food. It has a low side effect profile including nausea, stuffy or runny nose and sore throat, Januvia is not covered by Ontario Drug Benefit and costs approximately \$95.00/month.

Diovan 320mg now available

Valsartan (Diovan), an angiotensin II receptor blocker (ARB) is now available in a 320mg tablet complementing the 80mg and 160mg tablet. Stress for adequate fluid intake since many older adults may be volume depleted due to diuretic use and/or blunted thirst reflex resulting in inadequate fluid intake.

Fentanyl patches and possible intoxication:

Please review thoroughly the application directions for fentanyl patches distributed mid-February. Following usage of an occlusive dressing over the patch, a patient experienced what may be a fentanyl overdose. So if the patch does not stick well or comes loose after it is applied, tape the edges down to your skin with first aid tape. Do not add an occlusive dressing over the patch because it may increase absorption.



Re-ordering

Most of the time the double-ply labels are used for re-ordering and we are very appreciative. If a double-ply label is not available, please write clearly the prescription number, patient's name, medication's name and strength. This procedure will avoid faxes or phone-calls to the nursing station and possible misinterpretation of the request.

Let's be clear!

Event Reminder:

Nurses are invited to a conference on Pain Management in the Elderly Population. It will be held Tuesday February 26th 2008 at the Ramada Inn & Conference Centre. Registration is at 6.00PM and presentation is from 6.30PM to 9.00PM.

Please refer to the Memo sent at the beginning of February.

For further information please contact Josee at 613 933-0670

Hope To See You There!

If you have requests, suggestions or comments for future issues, your feedback may be directed to

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