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NHS Executive
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PRESENTATION: Tablets containing 2.5mg, 5mg, 10mg or 20mg lisinopril (‘Zestril’).

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CONTRAINDICATIONS: Pregnancy. Hypersensitivity to ‘Zestril’. Patients with history of angioedema or previous ACE inhibitor therapy. Patients with aortic stenosis, cor pulmonale or outflow tract obstruction.

PRECAUTIONS: Assessment of renal function is recommended. Symptomatic hypotension may occur, particularly in volume depleted patients and congestive heart failure. Caution in patients with ischaemic heart or cerebrovascular disease; renal insufficiency; renovascular hypertension. Patients with a history of angioedema may be at increased risk of angioedema with an ACE inhibitor. Cough has been reported with ACE inhibitors. Renal impairment (usually reversible) may occur in some patients. Hypotension may occur during surgery or anaesthesia. Caution in nursing mothers. No paediatric experience. Afro-Caribbean patients may show reduced therapeutic response. Symptomatic hypotension can be minimised by discontinuing diuretic prior to ‘Zestril’. Interaction with indomethacin and lithium. Potassium supplements, potassium-sparing diuretics and potassium-containing salt substitutes not recommended. Avoid concomitant use with high-flux dialysis membranes.
SIDE EFFECTS: Hypotension, dizziness, headache, diarrhoea, cough, nausea, fatigue. Less frequently, rash, asthma. Rarely, angioneurotic oedema and other hypersensitivity reactions, myocardial infarction or cerebrovascular accident possibly secondary to excessive hypotension in high risk patients, palpitation, tachycardia, abdominal pain, dry mouth, hepatitis, jaundice, mood alterations, mental confusion, urticaria, diaphoresis, uraemia, oliguria/anauria, renal dysfunction, acute renal failure, impotence, pancreatitis, haemolytic anaemia. A symptom complex which may include fever, vasculitis, myalgia, arthralgias/arthritis, positive ANA, elevated ESR, eosinophilia, leukocytosis; rash, photosensitivity or other dermatological manifestations may occur. Increases (usually reversible) in blood urea, serum creatinine, liver enzymes and serum bilirubin. Decreases in haemoglobin and haematocrit have occurred. Hyperkalaemia and neutropenia.

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‘Zestril’ is a trademark.
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INTRODUCING MEDICAL DEVICES AGENCY

● WHAT IS MDA?
Medical devices include a wide range of products from dressings, thermometers, and wheelchairs to infusion systems, orthopaedic implants and scanners.
The Medical Devices Agency protects public health by ensuring that medical devices and equipment used in the health service meet appropriate standards of safety, quality and performance, and that such devices comply with relevant European Community Directives.
The majority of MDS’s 170 staff are specialists: medical and nursing staff, professionally qualified technologists and scientists (including biologists, chemists, engineers, toxicologists, pharmacists and physicists); and specialists in quality assurance.

● ADVERSE INCIDENCE
Device Technology and Safety investigate over 4,000 reports of adverse incidents annually. These investigations may result in the issuing of the safety warnings to the healthcare sector or modification of the device, or withdrawal of the device from the market. The experience from incident investigations is also used to provide technical and other safety-related advice and publications and in developing standards for medical devices.
Your help is sought in reporting to the Adverse Incident Centre (AIC) device-related incidents, including problems with user instructions, so that appropriate action can be taken.
To report an adverse incident or request for the information: Ring 0171 972 8080.

● DEVICE EVALUATION AND PUBLICATIONS
Device Evaluation and Publications manages a large programme of independent medical device evaluations, including aids for the disabled, wheelchairs, a range of electromedical equipment, and defibrillators.
For information about the Programme and a list of available reports: Ring 0171 972 8181.

● EUROPEAN BUSINESS
This section is responsible for the Agency’s Regulatory role as the UK Competent Authority for the European Union Medical Devices Directives.
For further information about the European Directives or to receive copies of Bulletins on aspects of the new regulatory European system and to obtain advice on the Medical Devices Directives: Ring 0171 972 8300.

● CLINICAL ADVICE ON MEDICAL ISSUES
The Agency can provide medical and nursing advice on any issues relating to devices.
For queries or discussion on clinical aspects of devices: Ring 0171 972 8123 - Medical
0171 972 8172 - Nursing
St Mary’s NHS Trust is proud to announce the launch of a brand new service for GPs. We’ve called our new service CareLine. By ringing our new number, you will be directly in contact with our Customer Services Department.

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St Mary’s NHS Trust comprises: St Mary’s Hospital, Praed Street, London W2 1NY; the Samaritan Hospital for Women and the Western Eye Hospital, Marylebone Road, London NW1 5YE; and acute services at St Charles Hospital, Ladbroke Grove London W10 6DZ.

SALES OFFICE

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3rd Edition (1993) - Jean Coope

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Available from RCGP Sales, 14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, London SW7 1PU. Tel: 0171-823-9698. Fax: 0171-225-3047.
STUDY DAY ON COT DEATH
4 October 1995
This study day, organised jointly with The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, will look at the developments in cot death, especially the role of infection, allergies, thermal physiology and ways of reducing the risks. Subjects for discussion will include cot mattresses, monitors, risks for subsequent children, helplines and befriender support. The study day is open to GPs, nurses and others members of the primary health care team.
PGEA approved for half day health promotion and half day disease management. The delegate fee (inclusive of VAT) is £55.00 for GPs and £35.00 for others.

STUDY DAY ON CLINICAL DEPRESSION IN GENERAL PRACTICE
11 October 1995
Caring for patients with depression is one of the most important and difficult jobs a GP has to face. This study day will tackle the practical problems of achieving a good standard of patient care despite limited resources and consulting time. Refresh knowledge of depressive illness and share experience and views with colleagues in the discussion groups.
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PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL COURSE
Course Director: Sally Irvine Course Leader: Hilary Haman
1/2 November 1995
This is a two day course open to general practitioners and practice and health centre managers. It aims to provide an appreciation of performance appraisal, the opportunity to practise interviewing skills, including role play and the use of video, and to develop a plan to allow participants to introduce a staff appraisal scheme into their practice. This course is aimed at both newcomers to appraisal and those who have experience of appraisal but wish to revisit the subject. It is a highly intensive course and therefore limited to 12 participants only.
The delegate fee (inclusive of VAT) is £325.00 including lunch and refreshments on both days and dinner on the first evening. PGEA approved for 2 days under service management.

STUDY DAY ON SPORT & HEALTH: FITNESS FOR OVER 50s
29 November 1995
This study day, on exercise and health in older people, looks at both the physiological benefits and the sociological factors involved in promoting physical exercise as a method of health care. Organised in association with the Sports Council. All members of the primary health care team are welcome to attend.
Delegate fee £55.00 (incl of VAT). PGEA applied for.

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Following the success of a pilot course last autumn, a series of Better Writing Workshops is running this year. The next is scheduled for Wednesday 15th November 1995 at the Royal College of General Practitioners in central London.

This practical course has been developed to help GPs and their teams improve their written communication skills. With emphasis on participation and exercises, plus attention to individual needs, each workshop includes:

- Keys to expressing ideas clearly and effectively
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- Matching writing styles to outlets

Course fee: £90

(includes background materials and light refreshments)

PGEA approval sought

Better Writing Workshops are lead by Susan Kerr, BA, author, freelance health writer and qualified adult teacher, and by Dr Richard Maxwell, MA FRCGP, a published practising GP with an interest in communication skills.

Further information, dates and venues from:
Dr Richard Maxwell,
Lodgeside Surgery, 22 Lodgeside Avenue,
Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1NH.
Tel (0117) 961 5666. Fax (0117) 947 6854.

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The next seminars are planned to start in October 1995 at the Red House Psychotherapy Centre, 78 Manchester Road, Swinton M27 SFG. PGEA approval for 1 1/2 hours will be obtained.

For further details write to Dr Dennis Price, Handforth Health Centre, Wilmslow Road, Handforth SK9 3HL.

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**CONFERENCE ON ADOLESCENT CARE IN PRACTICE**

19 October 1995

This conference, which will be the London launch of a series of regional conferences, is designed by the RCGP Working Party on Adolescents to consider its initiatives on how primary care can respond more effectively to the unmet needs of teenagers. It is aimed at all who work in primary care, including medical, nursing and administrative staff. The conference will be opened by Dr Kenneth Calman, the government’s Chief Medical Officer. Topics covered will include confidentiality, the adolescent consultation, emergency contraception, substance abuse and care of young people with disabilities.

The working party hope to receive ideas and support from those who attend and to stimulate discussion about the role of the College.

The Working Party is keen that some adolescents should attend the conference and take part in the discussions. There will be a reduction of £10.00 for delegates who are accompanied by a teenager (places for teenagers are free, but available by pre-booking only as numbers are limited).

This conference is supported by a grant from the Department of Health and therefore the delegate fee has been reduced from that previously advertised.

Delegate fee (inclusive of VAT): £35.00 for GPs and £25.00 for other health professionals.

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Precautions: Significant renal, hepatic or cardiac insufficiency. Patients with phenylketonuria - each FELDENE MELT tablet contains 0.14mg phenylalanine. Drug Interactions: Monitor patients on concurrent anticoagulants, lithium or diuretic therapy. Concurrent use of aspirin or other NSAIDs is not advised. Side-effects: Gastro-intestinal symptoms; if peptic ulceration or gastro-intestinal bleeding occurs withdraw FELDENE. Oedema, mainly ankle. Skin rashes. CNS effects, including headaches and dizziness. Rare cases of renal and hepatic abnormalities have been reported. Haematological reactions including thrombocytopenia and anaemia and hypersensitivity reactions such as bronchospasm and anaphylaxis have been reported very rarely. Legal Category: POM. Package Quantities and Basic NHS Cost: FELDENE MELT tablets 20mg, pack of 28, £19.83 (PL 0067/0552). Further information on request. Pfizer Limited, Sandwich, Kent.

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