The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products
Evaluation of Medicines for Human Use

20 December 1999
CPMP/3323/99 corr.

PRESS RELEASE

The Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products (CPMP) held its 55th plenary meeting from 14 December 1999 to 16 December 1999.

During this meeting, the CPMP met with the European AIDS Treatment Group on the 14 December 1999, the report on this meeting is circulated together with this Press Release (Annex III)

The CPMP thanked Professor Bo Odlind, Dr Per Sjoberg and Dr Gorm Jensen who are resigning from their CPMP membership and welcomed as new members Dr Per Nilsson and Dr Tomas Salmonson from Sweden.

Centralised Procedures[1]

The Committee adopted:

- One positive opinion on centralised marketing authorisation applications:
  - One positive revised opinion was adopted by consensus relating to a medicinal product containing a new active substance (Part A), a diagnostic agent for detection of thyroid cancer, following the review of scientific information relating to the quality of the product. The first opinion had been adopted in July 1999.
- One positive opinion on a "line extension" application (in accordance with Annex II of the Commission Regulation (EC) No 542/95 as amended):
  - One positive opinion was adopted by majority vote relating to an application for a new pharmaceutical form concerning an already centrally authorised medicinal product containing an anti-dementia drug (Part B), indicated for symptomatic treatment of mild to moderate severe Alzheimer Dementia.
- One positive opinion by consensus for a centralised type I variation following a type II procedure.
- Eight positive opinions by consensus for centralised type II variations.

An urgent safety restriction concerning Orlaam (Levacetylmethadol) to include a warning on the possibility of life threatening cardiac rhythm disorders, has been published (EMEA/38436/99) and is available on the Internet.

The Committee considered the need for four GMP inspections for three medicinal products (Part B) and requested one GCP Inspection for one medicinal product (Part B).

The Committee heard one oral presentation from applicants concerning an ongoing procedure.

An overview of centralised applications is given in Annex I.

---

[1] Note for Editors:
Applicants may appeal any CPMP opinion, provided they notify the EMEA in writing of their intention to appeal within 15 days of receipt of the opinion.

7 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4HB, UK
Tel (44-20-7) 418 8400 Fax (44-20-7) 418 8595
E-mail: mail@emea.eudra.org http://www.eudra.org/emea.html

For marketing authorisations granted by the European Commission since the last CPMP in November 1999, see Annex II.

Scientific Advice

The Committee adopted the following scientific advice letters:

Part	Indication(s)	Topic
A	Factor VIII deficiency	Quality, Pre-clinical and Clinical development programme
B	Aspergillus and Candida infections	Clinical development programme
B	Depression	Clinical development programme
B	Schizophrenia	Pre-clinical and Clinical development programme
B	Parkinson's disease	Pre-clinical and Clinical development programme

The Committee accepted two new requests from companies for scientific advice. Co-ordinators were appointed.

Working Parties, Ad Hoc Expert Groups and Organisational Matters

The CPMP heard reports from its Quality, Biotechnology, Safety, Efficacy and Pharmacovigilance Working Parties and from the Ad Hoc Working Group on Blood Products, Ad Hoc Experts Group on Update of the Guideline on the excipients on the label and package leaflet of medicinal products for human use.

QUALITY WORKING PARTY

The following document was adopted:

- Updated Workplan for the QWP for 2000 (CPMP/QWP/583/99 rev.2)

The following document was released for 6 months' consultation:

- Note for guidance on In-use stability testing of human medicinal products - Annex to Note for guidance on Stability testing of existing active substances and related finished products and Note for guidance on Stability testing of new drug substances and products (CPMP/QWP/2934/99 draft)

BIOTECHNOLOGY WORKING PARTY

The following documents were released for 6 months' consultation:

- Note for guidance on Quality, pre-clinical and clinical aspects of gene transfer medicinal products (CPMP/BWP/3088/99 draft)
- Points to consider on Human somatic cell therapy (CPMP/BWP/41450/98 rev.1 draft)

SAFETY WORKING PARTY

The following document was adopted:

- Workplan for the SWP for 2000 (CPMP/SWP/2714/99)

- The following document was released for 3 months' consultation*:*

- Note for guidance on Repeated dose toxicity (CPMP/SWP/1042/99)

EFFICACY WORKING PARTY

The following document was adopted:

- Workplan for the EWP for 2000 (CPMP/EWP/478/96 rev.20)

Two documents were adopted for coming into operation in June 2000*:*

- Note for guidance on Clinical investigation of medicinal products for the treatment of venous thromboembolic disease (CPMP/EWP/563/98)
- Note for guidance on Clinical investigation of medicinal products for the treatment of cardiac failure (CPMP/EWP/235/95, rev.1)

The following document was released for 3 months' consultation:

- Points to consider on Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics in the development of antibacterial medicinal products (CPMP/EWP/2655/99, draft 4)

The following document was released for 6 months' consultation:

- Note for guidance on Clinical investigation of medicinal products for the treatment of bipolar disorder (CPMP/EWP/567/98, draft 5)

PHARMACOVIGILANCE WORKING PARTY

The following document was adopted:

- Workplan for the PhVWP for 2000 (CPMP/PhVWP/3161/99)

AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON BLOOD PRODUCTS

The following document was released for 3 months' consultation:

- Core SPC for Human albumin (CPMP/PhVWP/BPWG/2231/99)

Mutual Recognition

The CPMP noted the report from the Mutual Recognition Facilitation Group (MRFG) of 13 December 1999, which is circulated together with this Press Release (Annex IV).

Prof. Rolf Bass
Head of Unit
Evaluation of Medicines for Human Use
This Press Release and other documents are available on the Internet at the following address: http://www.eudra.org/emea.html

EMEA CENTRALISED PROCEDURES

	1995-1998			1999			Overall Total
	Part A	**Part B**	**Total**	**Part A**	**Part B**	**Total**	
Scientific Advice	33	45	78	28	32	60	138
Follow-up to scientific advice	9	4	13	2*	2*	4*	17*

	1995-1998			1999			Overall Total
	Part A	**Part B**	**Total**	**Part A**	**Part B**	**Total**	
Applications submitted	62	115	177	18**	29**	47**	224**
Withdrawals	11	19	30	1	7	8	38
Positive CPMP opinions	35	65	100	9	17	26	126[1]
Negative CPMP opinions[2]	1	2	3	0	4	4	7[3]
Marketing authorisations granted by the Commission	28	60	88	12	18	30	118[4]

	1995-1998			1999			Overall Total
	Part A	**Part B**	**Total**	**Part A**	**Part B**	**Total**	
Variations type I	99	168	267	60	178	238	505
Positive opinions, variations type II	41	77	118	48	54	102	220
Negative opinions, variations type II	0	2	2	0	0	0	2
Extensions	25	6	31	7	9	16	47

*Correction included following implementation of fee regulation ** Figures updated at the end of 1999

[1] 126 positive opinions corresponding to 98 substances
[2] In case of appeal the opinion will not be counted again
[3] 7 negative opinions corresponding to 4 substances
[4] 118 Marketing Authorisations corresponding to 94 substances

Medicinal products granted a Community Marketing Authorisation under the Centralised Procedure since the November 1999 Press Release

Brand name	Ammonaps
INN	phenylbutyrate
Marketing Authorisation Holder	Orphan Europe FR
ATC code	A16AX03
Indication	Adjunctive therapy in the chronic management of urea cycle disorders
Opinion receipt date	8.09.1999
Date of Commission Decision	8.12.1999

Brand name	Tikosyn
INN	dofetilide
Marketing Authorisation Holder	Pfizer Ltd UK
ATC code	C01BD04
Indication	Antiarrhythmic agent
Opinion receipt date	9.09.1999
Date of Commission Decision	29.11.1999

REPORT ON MEETING WITH THE EUROPEAN AIDS TREATMENT GROUP HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 1999

The CPMP met representatives of the European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG) on 14 December 1999 to exchange views and discuss information in relation to HIV/AIDS treatments. This meeting was the 3rd meeting of the CPMP and EATG held since 1995. Prof. Jean-Michel Alexandre chaired the meeting.

- EATG expressed their concern with respect to early access to promising medicinal products for HIV infected patients who have exhausted all available therapeutic options. EATG presented a comparison, which revealed a gap in access to new promising compounds through compassionate use programmes. Between the USA and the Member States of the European Union, the gap in access was up to 15 months. Within the European Union, additional differences exist between more sophisticated compassionate use systems in place in some Member States and less developed in others. Such differences in access may be due to strategies of the companies, lack of manufacturing production capacity and different national legislation or regulatory bodies being responsible within the Member States. It has been proposed to EATG that, during the Audit phase of the 2001 revision of the European system, they provide the Commission and the EMEA with a detailed report on the situation within the European Union explaining the practical difficulties and make proposals for improvement.

- EATG expressed their views on some of the approximately 130 new products currently under development.

- The CPMP agrees that the difference in early access to new promising compounds between the US and EU ("compassionate use") is difficult to accept. There is a need for the EU to convey with a single voice the message on the medical need for early access to new treatment options.
  The CPMP informed EATG that the "CPMP Points to Consider in the assessment of anti-HIV medicinal products" document (CPMP/602/95 rev.1) will be revised early 2000, in particular to address the requirements for approval of new products with unique resistance profiles. The CPMP mentioned that a preliminary discussion on resistance matters took place during the meeting of an ad-hoc Expert group on antiretroviral medicinal products in November 1999.

- It was agreed to continue this useful series of meetings. The next CPMP-EATG meeting will be held before end of April 2000 to discuss the progress made, and to review the update of the CPMP Points to Consider document.

For further information please contact:
Prof. Rolf Bass
Head of Unit
Evaluation of Medicines for Human Use, EMEA
Tel:+44 20-7 418 8411

Report from the meeting held on 13 December 1999

The MRFG noted that 43 new mutual recognition procedures were finalised during the month of November 1999, as well as 56 type I and 18 type II variations.

The status as of 30th November 1999 of procedures under mutual recognition is as follows:

Year	Procedures from New applications finalised	Procedures from New applications in process	Procedures from Type I variations finalised	Procedures from Type I variations pending	Procedures from Type II variations finalised	Procedures from Type II variations pending	Arbitrations referred to CPMP
1999	207	39	625	58	290	98	2 N.A.+ 2 var.

9 new procedures (regarding 21 products) started in November 1999. The categories of these procedures are as follows:

New active substance[1]	Line extensions[2]	Fixed comb.	Generics	Herbal products[3]	OTC[4]	Blood products	Immuno-logicals	Others[5]
0	2	3	3	0	0	1	0	0

1. When in one of the involved Member States it concerns a new active substance according to the definition in the Notice to Applicants Volume IIA; the number given includes multiple applications and repeat use procedures.
2. Line extensions are those applications which extend a range of products, e.g. an additional strength, or a new pharmaceutical form from the same Marketing Authorisation Holder;
3. In this category products are classified as herbals when the RMS has considered them as herbal product;
4. In this category products are classified as OTC products when the RMS has approved it for OTC use, although the legal status is not part of the Mutual Recognition Procedure;
5. When the product is not classified in the other eight categories.

Each application can be classified in only one category.

Number of countries involved in the new applications procedures started in November 1999:

Reference Member State (number of products involved in the procedure)	Number of CMSs involved in the procedure
FR (1)	1
NL (2)	4
SE (3)	1

SE (3)	1
UK (1)	3
UK (4)	13
UK (1)	4
UK (4)	5
UK (2)	1

General issues

- Mutual recognition assessment report update – document was adopted and will be published on the MRFG web-site.
- Best Practice Guide for handling variations in the mutual recognition procedure was adopted and will be published.
- The revised SOP 'Applicants response document in mutual recognition procedure recommended format' was adopted and will be published.
- Norway and Iceland will join the mutual recognition procedure as of 1 January, 2000.
- One to two observers from the CADREAC countries will be invited to the MRFG plenary meetings as of January 2000.
- 'Breakthrough 2001' document was introduced and forwarded to the MRFG group by the representatives of EGA.
- EudraTrack system has been tested for Y2K problems and found to be compliant with the year 1999-2000 change. In the unlikely case of system failure, the data transfer will continue via telefax transmissions.
- The December MRFG meeting was the last under the Finnish Presidency. Portugal will take over the Chairmanship as of January 2000. Dr. António Melo Gouveia will be the next chairman. He should be contacted in future in case of questions regarding the MRP.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hyvää joulua ja onnellista uutta vuotta.

All documents mentioned in this press release can be found at the MRFG website at the European Medicines Authorities Windows under the heading SOP.

Information on the above mentioned issues can be obtained by the presiding chair of the MRFG:

Dr.Veijo Saano
National Agency for Medicines(NAM)
P.O. Box 55
FIN-00301 HELSINKI

Phone: + 358 9 47 334 224
Fax: + 358 9 47 334 260
e-mail: veijo.saano@nam.fi

From 1st January 2000:

Dr. António MELO GOUVEIA
Head of the Medicines Division
INFARMED
Parque de Saude de Lisboa
Avenido do Brasil, n° 53
P - 1700 LISBOA

Phone: + 351 21 798 7200
Fax: + 351 21 798 7316
e-mail: Melo.gouveia@infarmed.pt

Or you could visit the MRFG web site at the European National Medicines Authorities Window:

http://heads.medagencies.org/