Apidra

Apidra (insulin glulisine), a rapid-acting, mealtime insulin manufactured by sanofi-aventis, is now available in the UK for people with diabetes who need a basal-bolus insulin regimen. Apidra is a rapid-acting insulin analogue that offers flexibility in a range of body types from lean to obese. It is suitable for people with type 1 or type 2 diabetes and can be used before or after meals. At diagnosis 75% of people with type 2 diabetes are overweight. In such people maximal glucose excursions have been found to be lower and plasma insulin levels higher in those treated with insulin glulisine compared with those treated with insulin lispro.

Contact: 020 8747 4400

PHF Services Limited

As missed appointments cost the NHS £575million despite a government pledge to cut 'no shows' a new service run by experienced medical professionals could help ease some of the administrative burden experienced by consultants in the private sector. Virtual Practice Management (VPM) from PHF Services Limited is the result of 2 years of research and has been developed with leading consultants Mr John K Webb (MB, BS, FRCS) (*pictured*) and Mr John K O'Dowd (FRCS).

VPM is designed to help consultants maximize their private practice. It incorporates diary management, transcription and financial services.

Contact: 0870 743 4876

Protelos

Results presented at the annual American Society of Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR) meeting confirm the unique dual mechanism of action of strontium ranelate (Protelos), and its long term bone safety. Professor PD Delmas' team at Claude Bernard University, Lyon, France, analysed transiliac (hip) bone biopsies from postmenopausal osteoporotic patients taking either placebo or Protelos (2g per day) at baseline, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 years. The results showed that Protelos is well tolerated, with no increase in osteoid thickness. There was no change in mineralization lag time between both groups.

Contact: 01753 662 744

Ipsen

New guidance is available for medical teams involved in the transition of care of the adolescent with growth hormone disease (GHD), from the paediatric to the adult endocrinology service. 'Working towards best practice in the transition from paediatric to adult services for adolescents with growth hormone deficiency', the document resulted from a meeting earlier this year involving a panel of experts in GHD, and was chaired by Professor Stephen Shalet, Professor of Endocrinology at the Christie Hospital in Manchester.

Contact: 01753 627 777

ViraferonPeg

A shorter 24-week course of therapy with peginterferon alfa-2b (ViraferonPeg) 1.5 µg/kg once weekly) and ribavirin (Rebetol) 800–1 200 mg daily has been approved by the European Commission for patients with the hepatitis C virus (HCV) genotype 1 infection who have a low viral load (< 600 000 iu/ml), who have undetectable levels of the virus at week four of treatment and remain virus negative at week 24. The hepatitis C virus affects between 200 000 and 500 000 people in the UK. It is estimated that up to 66% of hepatitis C infections are genotype 1, which is more resistant to therapy than other genotypes and so requires longer duration of therapy i.e. 48 weeks rather than the 24 weeks for genotypes 2 and 3.

CVD

A new, large-scale international survey has revealed that people with high cholesterol—the main risk factor for CVD—are at significant risk from death from a potentially fatal cardiovascular event: yet they are living in ignorance about the seriousness of their condition. The survey was conducted by Adelphi International Research and sponsored by AstraZeneca in ten countries: Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, France, Mexico, Portugal, Singapore, South Korea and the UK. The survey consisted of two study groups, one group in patients diagnosed with high cholesterol and one in family doctors. A total of 1 547 patients were surveyed and 750 doctors.