Highlights of FDA Activities – 11/1/14 – 11/30/14

FDA Drug Safety Communications & Drug Information Updates:

FDA concerns about therapeutic equivalence with two generic versions of Concerta tablets (methylphenidate hydrochloride extended-release) [11/13/14]
FDA has concerns about whether or not two approved generic versions of Concerta tablets (methylphenidate hydrochloride extended-release tablets) manufactured by Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals and Kudco Ireland Ltd. are therapeutically equivalent to the brand-name drug. Therapeutic equivalence ratings for these two products were changed from AB to BX. The products are still approved but cannot be automatically substituted for Concerta.

Long-term Antiplatelet Therapy: Safety Announcement – Preliminary Trial Data Shows Benefits But a Higher Risk of Non-Cardiovascular Death [11/16/14]
Preliminary data from a clinical trial shows that treatment for 30 months with dual anti-platelet (aspirin plus clopidogrel or prasugrel) therapy decreased the risk of heart attacks and clot formation in stents, but increased overall risk of death compared to 12 months of treatment. The FDA currently recommends no changes in prescribing practices with these medications. The FDA will communicate their final recommendations when they have evaluated The Dual Antiplatelet Therapy trial published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* on 11/16/14.

Tecfidera (dimethyl fumarate) by Biogen Idec: Drug Safety Communication - Case of Rare Brain Infection PML Reported [11/25/14]
A patient with multiple sclerosis who was being treated with Tecfidera (dimethyl fumarate) developed a rare and serious brain infection progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML), and later died. The patient was not taking any other drugs that affect the immune system or drugs that are thought to be associated with PML; therefore, information describing this case is being added to the Tecfidera prescribing information.

Major Product Recalls Announced Through MedWatch:

GemStar Power Supply, 3VDC for GemStar Infusion Pumps by Hospira: Recall – Power Supply May Not Delivery Enough Electricity [11/05/14]
The 3VDC, an accessory power supply, manufactured by Hospira, supplies power to the GemStar Infusion pump. This power supply may not be delivering electric power properly to the infusion pump, potentially leading to delayed infusion therapy.

Nellcor Puritan Bennett, 980 Ventilator System: Recall – Software Issue May Stop Ventilator [11/07/14]
Puritan Bennett 980 Ventilator Systems with software versions below 2.8 may have a software problem that causes the ventilator to stop once the air and oxygen gas supply lines are disconnected and then reconnected. The malfunction can be prevented with a software update available from Covidien

ABC Dophilus Powder by Solgar: Recall – Risk of Infection [11/17/14]
Solgar is recalling ABC Dophilus Powder after CDC testing revealed the presence of *Rhizopus oryzae* in 50 g containers of the powder (UPC 0 33984 00010 0; Lot # 074024-01R1, 074024-01, 074024-02, Exp. Date 7/31/15). *Rhizopus oryzae* may cause mucormycosis. CDC investigation of the product occurred following the death of a preterm infant who suffered gastrointestinal mucormycosis following in-hospital treatment with ABC Dophilus Powder.

Respironics California, Esprit V1000 and V200 Ventilators: Recall – Power Failure May Occur [11/20/14]
Esprit V1000 and V200 Ventilators installed with 3rd Generation Power Supplies and 3rd Generation Power Supply Repair Kits are being recalled. The power supply may prevent the ventilator from using AC power or may prevent the ventilator from switching back to AC power after using battery power. The ventilators also may not work if a battery is not present or is depleted.

INTRAVIA Empty Containers with PVC Ports: Recall – Particles Found in Fluid Path [11/20/14]
INTRAVIA Empty Containers with PVC Ports from Baxter recalled following complaints of particulate matter within the fluid path. The 2 recalled lots are the 150 mL (product code 2B8011, Lot # UR13D15112) and 500 mL (product code 2B8013, Lot # UR13K14095) containers.

Highly concentrated Potassium Chloride Injection, 10 mEq per 100 mL by Baxter: Recall – Mislabeled Overpouch [11/21/14]
Baxter is recalling one lot of Highly Concentrated Potassium Chloride Injection, 10 mEq per 100 mL (Lot No. P319160, DNC 0338-0709-48). This product was incorrectly labeled as "20 mEq per 100 mL." on the overpouch.

Gabapentin Capsules, USP 300 mg, by Aurobindo Pharma USA: Recall - Complaints of Empty Capsules [11/24/14]
Aurobindo Pharma USA is voluntarily recalling lot GESB14011-A of gabapentin capsules, USP 300 mg 100-count bottles to the consumer level. The product lot has been found to contain some empty capsules.

CONMED PadPro and R2 Multi-function Defibrillation Electrodes: – Connector Compatibility [11/26/14]
Electrodes will not connect with Philips FR3 or FRx automated external defibrillator (AED) units.

Dietary Supplement Recalls & Public Notifications

In November, the FDA issued notifications to the public regarding undeclared active ingredients in the following products. Patients are advised not to purchase or use these products.

Product	***Promoted Use***	***Hidden/Undeclared Drug Ingredient(s)***
V26 Slimming Coffee	Weight loss	Sibutramine
Mayhem from Chaotic Labz*	Bodybuilding supplement	Dexamethasone and Cyproheptadine
Feng Shi Ling	Pain associated with rheumatoid arthritis and osteoporosis	Diclofenac and indomethacin
Black Storm	Sexual enhancement	Sildenafil
Super Extreme Accelerator	Weight loss	Sibutramine
Bee Thin	Weight loss	Sibutramine
Bee Slim	Weight loss	Sibutramine
Slim-Vie	Weight-loss	Sibutramine
Forever Beautiful Bee Pollen*	Weight loss	Sibutramine and phenolphthalein
Forever Beautiful Infinity*	Weight loss	Sibutramine and phenolphthalein

*Recalled

New Product Shortages Reported by the FDA:	***Date Initially Posted***
Vancomycin HCl for Injection, USP	[11/07/14]
Trypan Blue Ophthalmic Solution 0.15% (Membraneblue)	[11/17/14]

Product Discontinuations/Withdrawals	***Date Posted***
Gentamicin sulfate injection, USP (0.8 mg/mL, 100 mL container) is being discontinued by Hospira; remains available from other manufacturers	[11/04/14]
Imipenem and Cilastatin for Injection (Primaxin I.V. ADD-Vantage) is being discontinued by Merck Sharp & Dohme. Only the Primaxin ADD-Vantage presentation is being discontinued; Primaxin and generic vials remain available.	[11/12/14]
Mesna 100 mg/mL, 10 mL MDV is being discontinued by Mylan; remains available from other manufacturers.	[11/13/14]
Ticarcillin disodium and clavulanate potassium (Timentin®) Sterile Powder for Injection is being discontinued by GlaxoSmithKline. There are no other suppliers of ticarcillin/clavulanate injection.	[11/17/14]

New Drug Approvals:	***Description***	***Date Approved***
Meningococcal group B vaccine / Trumenba / Wyeth Pharmaceutical Inc.	See attached drug summary	[10/29/14]
Alemtuzumab / Lemtrada / Genzyme	See attached drug summary	[11/14/14]

New Indications:	***Description***	***Date Approved***
Olysio / simeprevir sodium / Janssen	Use in combination with sofosbuvir for the treatment of patients with chronic hepatitis C virus genotype 1 infection	[11/5/14]
Cyramza / ramucirumab / Eli Lilly & Co.	Use in combination with paclitaxel for the treatment of patients with advanced gastric cancer or gastro-esophageal junction adenocarcinoma with disease progression after fluoropyrimidine- or platinum-containing chemotherapy	[11/5/14]
Avastin / bevacizumab / Roche	Use in combination with chemotherapy for the treatment of women with platinum-resistant, recurrent ovarian cancer	[11/14/14]
Paliperidone palmitate / Invega Sustenna / Janssen	Use in schizoaffective disorder as monotherapy and combination therapy	
Cinacalcet tablets / Sensipar / Amgen	For hypercalcemia in adults with primary hyperparathyroidism for whom parathyroidectomy would be indicated, but who are unable to undergo the procedure	[11/21/14]
Rifapentine / Priftin / Sanofi aventis	Treatment of latent tuberculosis infection caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in combination with isoniazid in patients at high risk for progression to tuberculosis disease	[11/25/14]

New Dosage Forms or Formulation:	***Description***	***Date Approved***
Hydrocodone bitartrate + guaifenesin oral solution / Obredon / Sovereign Pharma	Combination opioid antitussive and expectorant to relieve cough and loosen mucus associated with the common cold. Adult dose is 10 mL (hydrocodone bitartrate 5 mg + guaifenesin 400 mg) every 4 to 6 hours.	[11/14/14]
Paricalcitol injection / Hikma Pharma	Injection for intravenous administration in the prevention and treatment of secondary hyperparathyroidism associated with chronic kidney disease Stage 5. Available in 2 mcg, 5 mcg, and 10 mcg single-dose vials.	[11/18/14]

Hydrocodone bitartrate ER / Hysingla ER / Purdue Pharma	See attached drug summary	[11/20/14]
Clindamycin phosphoate 1.2% + benzoyl peroxide 3.75% topical gel / Onexton / Dow Pharmaceuticals	New strength for the treatment of acne vulgaris in patients 12 years of age and older	[11/24/14]

Compiled by:

Terri Levien, Pharm.D.
Ross Bindler, Pharm.D., PGY1 Drug Information Resident
Anne Kim, Pharm.D., PGY1 Drug Information Resident
Elaine Cen, Pharm.D. Candidate 2015
Wing-Chung Wong, Pharm.D. Candidate 2015

Drug Information Center
College of Pharmacy
Washington State University
PO Box 1495
Spokane, WA 99210-1495
(509) 358-7662
Pharmacy.druginfo@wsu.edu

Meningococcal group B vaccine / Trumenba / Wyeth Pharmaceutical Inc.	
Generic Name / Brand Name / Company	Meningococcal group B vaccine / Trumenba / Wyeth Pharmaceutical Inc.
Date of approval	October 29, 2014
Drug Class (Mechanism of Action if novel agent)	Stimulates complement mediated antibody-dependent killing of *N. meningitidis* serogroup B.
Indication	Prophylaxis; for active immunization to prevent invasive disease caused by *Neisseria meningitides* serogroup B in subjects 10 to 25 years of age.
Comparative agent – Therapeutic interchange?	None; complementary to meningococcal groups A, C, Y and W-135 vaccine
Dosage forms/strengths. Common Dose/sig	0.5 mL single-dose prefilled syringe Administer intramuscularly as a 3 dose series according to a 0-, 2-, and 6-month schedule
DEA Schedule	Not applicable
Date of market availability	Now (Late November)
Similar Medications (Look-Alike Sound-Alike)	Namenda
CLINICAL USE EVALUATION	
Common Adverse Effects	Pain at the injection site (≥85%), fatigue (≥40%), headache (≥35%), muscle pain (≥30%), and chills (≥15%).
Severe Adverse Effects	Severe allergic reaction
Severe Drug-Drug Interactions	Immunosuppressants may reduce the therapeutic effect of the vaccine
Severe Drug-Food Interactions	Not reported
Important Labs Values to assess prior to order entry or at point of clinical follow up. (Need Pop Up?)	Not reported
Used in Pediatric Areas	No safety and effectiveness data in children < 10 years of age
Renal or Hepatic Dosing	No adjustments required
Critical Issues (i.e., contraindications, warnings, etc) that should be emphasized	Caution for allergic reactions, have epinephrine and appropriate medications ready in case of acute anaphylactic reaction. Patients with altered immunocompetence may have reduced immune response to Trumenba.
Special administration technique or considerations	Shake syringe vigorously to get homogenous white suspension. Inject intramuscularly. Preferred site is the deltoid muscle. Store refrigerated. Store syringes lying flat (horizontally) to minimize re-dispersion time.
Prepared by	Elaine Cen, PharmD Candidate 2015

Alemtuzumab / Lemtrada / Genzyme	
Generic Name / Brand Name / Company	Alemtuzumab injection / Lemtrada / Genzyme
Date of approval	November 14, 2014
Drug Class (Mechanism of Action if novel agent)	Antineoplastic, Anti-CD52 monoclonal antibody. Antibody-dependent cellular cytolysis and complement-mediated lysis.
Indication	For relapsing multiple sclerosis. Use should be reserved for patients who had inadequate response to 2 or more MS treatment drugs.
Comparative agent – Therapeutic interchange?	Interferon beta-1a, Interferon beta-1b, glatiramer acetate, natalizumab, fingolimod, teriflunomide, azathioprine
Dosage forms/strengths. Common Dose/sig	Injection: 12 mg/1.2 mL (single-use vial) 2 treatment courses. 1st treatment: IV infusion 12 mg/day for 5 consecutive days. 2nd treatment: 12 mg/day for 3 consecutive days administered 12 months after the 1st treatment course.
DEA Schedule	Not applicable
Date of market availability	Not reported
Similar Medications (Look-Alike Sound-Alike)	None identified
CLINICAL USE EVALUATION	
Common Adverse Effects	(Incidence ≥10%) Rash, headache, pyrexia, nasopharyngitis, nausea, urinary tract infection, fatigue, insomnia, upper respiratory tract infection, herpes viral infection, urticaria, pruritus , thyroid gland disorders, fungal infection, arthralgia, pain in extremity, back pain, diarrhea, sinusitis, oropharyngeal pain, paresthesia, dizziness, abdominal pain, flushing, and vomiting
Severe Adverse Effects	Autoimmunity, infusion reactions, malignancies, immune thrombocytopenia, glomerular nephropathies, thyroid disorder, other autoimmune cytopenias, infections and pneumonitis.
Severe Drug-Drug Interactions	Live viral vaccines 6 weeks before and following a course of alemtuzumab.
Severe Drug-Food Interactions	Not reported
Important Labs Values to assess prior to order entry or at point of clinical follow up. (Need Pop Up?)	Monitor vital signs before and periodically during the infusion. Obtain CBC with differential, serum Cr, and urinalysis with urine cell counts prior to treatment and at monthly intervals thereafter. Monitor thyroid function via TSH level prior to treatment and every 3 months thereafter.
Used in Pediatric Areas	No safety and effectiveness data in patients less than 17 years old.
Renal or Hepatic Dosing	No specific guideline provided
Critical Issues (i.e., contraindications, warnings, etc) that should be emphasized	Contraindicated in patients with HIV infection. Alemtuzumab can increase the risk of serious autoimmune mediated conditions, the risk of malignancies such as thyroid cancer, melanoma, lymphoproliferative disorders and lymphoma, the risk of infections, the risk of glomerular nephropathies, and the risk of immune thrombocytopenia. Alemtuzumab can cause cytokine release syndrome leading to infusion reactions. Delay initiation in patients with active infections.
Special administration technique or considerations	Available only through certified infusion centers. Must be diluted prior to administration. Compound IV infusion bag by injecting 1.2 mL alemtuzumab into 100 mL 0.9% NaCl or D5W. Infuse alemtuzumab over 4 hours, extend infusion time if clinically needed. Monitor patients for 2 hours after each infusion. Premedicate with corticosteroid immediately prior to alemtuzumab infusion and for the first 3 days of each treatment course. Administer anti-herpetic viral prophylaxis starting on the 1st day of each treatment course and continue for a minimum of 2 months following alemtuzumab or until CD4+ count is greater than 200 cells/mcL, whichever occurs later.
Prepared by	Elaine Cen, PharmD Candidate 2015

Hydrocodone bitartrate / Hysingla ER / Purdue Pharma	
Generic Name / Brand Name / Company	Hydrocodone bitartrate extended-release / Hysingla ER / Purdue Pharma
Date of approval	November 20,2014
Drug Class (Mechanism of Action if novel agent)	Opioid analgesic; abuse deterrent formulation may deter misuse and abuse via chewing, snorting, or injection
Indication	Management of pain severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate
Comparative agent – Therapeutic interchange?	Zohydro ER
Dosage forms/strengths. Common Dose/sig	Extended-release tablets: 20, 30, 40, 60, 80, 100 and 120 mg Dose: 1 tablet once daily (every 24 hours) Initiate with 20 mg for opioid-naïve patients. Dose titration may occur every 3 to 5 days.
DEA Schedule	C-II
Date of market availability	Early 2015
Similar Medications (Look-Alike Sound-Alike)	None
CLINICAL USE EVALUATION	
Common Adverse Effects	Nausea, constipation, vomiting, dizziness, headache, somnolence, fatigue, pruritus, tinnitus, insomnia, decreased appetite, influenza
Severe Adverse Effects	Hypotension, orthostatic hypotension, prolonged QT interval, seizure, respiratory depression, opioid withdrawal, raised intracranial pressure
Severe Drug-Drug Interactions	MAOIs,
Severe Drug-Food Interactions	Not reported
Important Labs Values to assess prior to order entry or at point of clinical follow up. (Need Pop Up?)	Not reported
Used in Pediatric Areas	Safety and effectiveness have not been established
Renal or Hepatic Dosing	Moderate or severe renal impairment or end stage renal disease: initiate therapy with ½ the usual initial dose. Severe hepatic impairment: Use half the initial dose.
Critical Issues (i.e., contraindications, warnings, etc) that should be emphasized	Contraindicated in patients with significant respiratory depression, acute or severe bronchial asthma, paralytic ileus and gastrointestinal obstruction, or hypersensitivity to hydrocodone bitartrate. Warnings consistent with other opioid analgesics.
Special administration technique or considerations	Swallow tablet whole; must not be chewed, crushed, or dissolved. Do not pre-soak, lick or wet tablet prior to placing in the mouth. Take tablets one at a time, with enough water to ensure complete swallowing immediately after placing in the mouth.
Prepared by	Wing Wong, PharmD Candidate 2015