



Epilepsy Society of Australia

Drug Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes

Date:- Wednesday 12th November, 2003
Time:- 1220-1320 hrs
Venue:- Board room, Hyatt Hotel, Auckland, New Zealand
Attendees:- Mark Cook, Mark Newton, Ingrid Scheffer, Ernie Somerville & Elizabeth Walker
Apologies: Christine Kilpatrick & Dan McLaughlin
Minutes:

1. Apologies were noted: Christine Kilpatrick and Dan McLaughlin.
2. Review of minutes from 15/11/2002: These were accepted unanimously.
3. Mark Cook officially informed the Committee of Prof Frank Vajda's resignation from the Chair of the Drug Committee. However, Mark envisages Frank to be re-involved at some time in the future.
4. Drug report from Frank Vajda: The final report done by Frank on the 19/09/2003 was given at the Committee meeting. Issues to come from this report in particular, was the possible withdrawal of Mysoline in Australia. Elizabeth Walker informed the Committee that New Zealand had been able to locate a generic supplier from Canada and that the New Zealand government had been very helpful.

ACTION ITEM: Liz Walker to forward Mark Cook details on this.

It was also noted that the phenobarbitone supply was low in Australia.

Zarontin capsules are now available.

ACTION ITEM: Pfizer should contact suppliers re the capsule supply. Mark Cook to contact Pfizer.

The computer generated, prescription where it defaulted to the generic had been condemned by the ESA, it stands now that you must complete the section for drug specification.

ACTION ITEM: The ESA to contact Sanofi re I.V. Epilim and this can be relayed through the Committee.

5. Pharmaceutical support: This is basically non-existent to what it has been in the past. The ESA certainly do not enjoy the same level of support, they should subsidy meeting rather than bringing multiple representatives to stand at the booths. This would be appreciated more.
6. Other matters:

Sodium Amytal, the only manufacturer of the drug now, Rambaxy, is targeting a United States market only. Thus making it extremely hard to get. It may be best to approach it on compassionate needs.

Midazolam guideline document has gone through several changes and Mark Cook will amend further comments for final distribution. It is important that the ESA have a position statement on this drug.

ACTION ITEM: The drug committee will write to Epilepsy Australia suggesting that their proposed document on Midazolam would be counterproductive and confusing.

Meeting closed at 1310hrs