

Neutra-phos Medication Update

The LWPES Drug and Therapeutics committee has recently been made aware of Alza Pharmaceuticals' decision to discontinue the manufacture of Neutra-phos. This medication is among several used in the treatment of X-linked hypophosphatemic rickets (XLR), as well as by the nephrologists for their ESRD patients, pre-transplant. Several of the LWPES membership contacted the D&T to determine whether the disruption in production was temporary or permanent.

Sara Divall of the D&T contacted Ortho-McNeil, parent of Alza Pharmaceuticals, and learned that as of September 5, 2008, Alza had discontinued its production of all forms of Neutra-phos. The individuals we contacted were unable to provide an explanation for the decision to stop production. However, after discussion with other LWPES members, several alternatives to treat XLR have been suggested. The alternative forms of phosphate available are:

Tablets: K-phos Neutral (Beach Pharmaceuticals)

Packets: Phos- NaK (Cyprus Pharmaceuticals), although we are currently researching the availability of this product or its dose equivalency to Neutra-phos.

Phospho soda: this has an awful taste, but the volumes required are quite small.

We remain in contact with the pharmacy division of Ortho-McNeil to identify other alternatives.