the DBL report

Issue #100, February 2018

An Official Accompaniment to the Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL) produced by Alberta Blue Cross

The Expert Committee on Drug Evaluation and Therapeutics (ECDET)

In this issue:

100th Issue of the DBL Report

The first DBL Report was published in January 1995, and with very few exceptions there has been a DBL report published after every meeting of the Expert Committee since then. The DBL Report is intended to be a resource for health professionals and the public, providing information about new Drug Products which have been approved for listing by the Minister of Health, as well as changes in listing status and Special Authorization criteria. The DBL report also includes a summary of the volume of Drug Products reviewed by the Expert Committee and the number of Drug Products which undergo Expedited Review.

Brief Summary of Drug Review Activities

The Expert Committee on Drug Evaluation and Therapeutics met on November 20 & 21, 2017. The Committee reviewed Manufacturer submissions for twenty (20) Drug Products for potential listing, or change in listing, on the *ADBL*. The Committee also considered information for a number of supplementary assessments of the coverage status of fifteen (15) Drug Products.

In addition to Drug Products reviewed by the Expert Committee, five (5) Drug Products underwent Expedited Review for listing on the *ADBL* effective December 1, 2017, and four (4) Drug Products underwent Expedited Review for listing effective February 1, 2018.

The following are highlights of recent changes to the *ADBL* and other topics of general interest. A complete list of changes, as well as the full *ADBL* may be accessed at https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/dbl/publications.html

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Please refer to the current ADBL for explanations of coverage, including a listing of coverage criteria (where applicable).

Highlights of Products Originally Reviewed via the Common Drug Review (CDR)

The following Drug Products were previously reviewed by pCODR (pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review) and the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* via Special Authorization, for the treatment of multicentric Castleman's disease (MCD), effective January 1, 2018:

- **SYLVANT*** (siltuximab) (JAI) **100 mg/vial & 400 mg/vial injections**

Highlights of Drug Products Added

The following Line Extension Drug Product was previously reviewed by the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* via Special Authorization for the same indications as the Cimzia 200 mg/mL prefilled syringe, effective January 1, 2018:

- **CIMZIA*** (certolizumab pegol) (UCB) **200 mg/mL auto-injector pen**

Highlights of Interchangeable (IC) Drug Products Added

Addition of the following Entry IC Drug Product to the *ADBL* has resulted in the creation of a New IC Grouping, effective December 1, 2017:

- **AURO-FLECAINIDE** (flecainide acetate) (AUR) **50 mg & 100 mg tablets**
- **MINT-ITRACONAZOLE** (itraconazole) (MPI) **100 mg capsule**

Addition of the following Entry IC Drug Products to the *ADBL* has resulted in the creation of a New IC Grouping, effective February 1, 2018*:*

- **APO-PHENYTOIN** (phenytoin sodium) (APX) **100 mg capsule**
- **MINT-CLONIDINE** (clonidine hydrochloride) (MPI) **0.1 mg & 0.2 mg tablets**
- **ODAN-BENZYDAMINE** (benzydamine hydrochloride) (ODN) **1.5 mg/mL oral rinse solution**
- **JAMP-HYDRALAZINE** (hydralazine hydrochloride) (JPC) **10 mg, 25 mg & 50 mg tablets**

Special Authorization Criteria Changes

The Special Authorization criteria for coverage for the following Drug Products have been revised effective February 1, 2018:

- **MEROPENEM*** (meropenem) (STM) **1 gram/vial injection**
- **MERREM*** (meropenem) (AZC) **500 mg and 1 gram per vial injections**
- **PRIMAXIN*** (imipenem/cilastatin sodium) (MFC) **500 mg/500 mg per vial injection**

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