the DBL report

Issue #101, March 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:

Brief Summary of Drug Review Activities

The Expert Committee on Drug Evaluation and Therapeutics met on January 22, 2018. The Committee reviewed Manufacturer submissions for twenty-nine (29) 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 thirty-three (33) Drug Products.

In addition to Drug Products reviewed by the Expert Committee, four (4) Drug Products underwent Expedited Review for listing on the *ADBL* effective March 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

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

The following Drug Products were reviewed by CDR and the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* via Special Authorization effective March 1, 2018:

- **ERELZI*** (etanercept) (SDZ) **25 mg/0.5 mL & 50 mg/mL prefilled syringes and 50 mg/mL Sensoready prefilled autoinjector** for the indications of Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS), Polyarticular Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (pJIA) and Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA).
- **STRENSIQ*** (asfotase alfa) (APG) **18 mg/vial, 28 mg/vial, 40 mg/vial & 80 mg/vial injections**

A complete list of changes, as well as the full ADBL may be accessed at https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/dbl/publications.html.

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

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Highlights of Interchangeable (IC) Drug Products Added

The following IC Drug Products were added to the *ADBL* effective March 1, 2018:

- **ACT BUPRENORPHINE/NALOXONE** (buprenorphine hydrochloride/naloxone hydrochloride dihydrate) (APH) **2 mg/0.5 mg & 8 mg/2 mg sublingual tablets**

Highlights of Drug Products Added

The following Natural Health Product was reviewed by the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* effective March 1, 2018 into a MAC grouping with other 8 mEq potassium chloride capsule formulations:

- **JAMP-POTASSIUM CHLORIDE ER** (potassium chloride) (JPC) **600 mg (8 mEq) capsule**

Highlights of Changes to Currently Listed Products

Additional indications were added for the following Drug Products effective March 1, 2018:

- **ZOLEDRONIC ACID* 4 mg/5 mL injections** (all brands) for the prevention of skeletal-related events in patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC) with one or more bony metastases was previously reviewed by the Expert Committee and this indication is now eligible for coverage via Special Authorization.

Restricted Benefit Criteria Changes

The Restricted Benefit criteria for coverage for the following Drug Products has been revised effective March 1, 2018 to include Specialists in Hematology to the Restricted Benefit prescriber designations:

- **MEROPENEM* 500 mg & 1 gram vial injections** (all brands)
- **PIPERACILLIN/TAZOBACTAM* 2 gram/250 mg, 3 gram/375 mg & 4 gram/500 mg vial injections** (all brands)
- **PRIMAXIN*** (imipenem/cilastatin sodium) (MFC) **500 mg/500 mg vial injection**

Special Authorization Criteria Changes

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

- **CANCIDAS*** (caspofungin) (MFC) **50 mg & 70 mg vial injections**
- **CASPOFUNGIN*** (caspofungin) (MDA) **50 mg & 70 mg vial injections**

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