the ADBL report

Issue #129, November 2022

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 September 23, 2022. The Committee reviewed Manufacturer submissions for twenty-four (24) 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-one (31) Drug Products.

In addition to Drug Products reviewed by the Expert Committee, ten (10) Drug Products and Devices underwent Expedited Review for listing on the *ADBL* effective October 1, 2022, and forty-six (46) Drug Products underwent Expedited Review for listing on the *ADBL* effective November 1, 2022.

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.php

Highlights of Products Originally Reviewed by the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH)

The following Drug Products were reviewed by CADTH and the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* effective October 1, 2022:

- **KYNMOBI* 10 mg, 15 mg, 20 mg, 25 mg & 30 mg sublingual films** (apomorphine hydrochloride) (SUN) via Special Authorization (SA)
- **PDP-LEVETIRACETAM 100 mg/mL oral solution** (levetiracetam) (PPH)

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

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- **RINVOQ* 15 mg extended-release tablet** (upadacitinib) (ABV) via SA for the indications of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) & Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA)
- **WAYMADE-TRIENTINE* 250 mg capsule** (trientine hydrochloride) (WYM) via SA

The following Drug Product was reviewed by CADTH and the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* effective November 1, 2022:

- **BREZTRI AEROSPHERE* 182/8.2/5.8 mcg inhalation suspension** (budesonide/ glycopyrronium/ formoterol fumarate dihydrate) (AZC) via Step Therapy/SA

Highlights of Interchangeable (IC) Drug Products Added

Addition of the following Entry IC Drug Products to the *ADBL* has resulted in the creation of New IC Groupings, effective November 1, 2022:

- **APIXABAN* 2.5 mg tablets** (various brands: APX, JPC, MAR, MTR, NTP, SDZ & TAR) via Step Therapy/SA for the indication of At Risk Patients with Non-valvular Atrial Fibrillation and via SA for the indications of Prophylaxis of Venous Thromboembolism and Venous Thromboembolic Events
- **APIXABAN* 5 mg tablets** (various brands: APX, JPC, MAR, MTR, NTP, SDZ & TAR) via Step/SA for the indication of At Risk Patients with Non-valvular Atrial Fibrillation and via SA for the indication of Venous Thromboembolic Events
- **GLN-ATOVAQUONE 150 mg/mL oral suspension** (atovaquone) (GLM)

Methadone Products

The temporary suspension of the designation of interchangeability for methadone 10 mg/mL oral solutions for the treatment of opioid dependence on the *ADBL* has been lifted, and all applicable methadone 10 mg/mL oral concentrate Drug Products currently listed on the *ADBL* will be deemed interchangeable with their respective Innovator Drug Products.

Highlights of Drug Products Added

The following Natural Health Product was reviewed by the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* effective October 1, 2022:

- **POTASSIUM CHLORIDE 1.33 mEq oral liquid** (potassium chloride (K+)(CL-)) (ODN)

The following Drug Product was reviewed by the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL,* resulting in the creation of a New IC Grouping, effective November 1, 2022:

- **APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE* 240 mg delayed-release capsule** (dimethyl fumarate) (APX) via SA

The following Drug Products were also reviewed by the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* effective November 1, 2022:

- **ARAZLO 0.045% topical lotion** (tazarotene) (VCL)
- **BRYHALI 0.01% topical solution** (halobetasol propionate) (VCL)

Highlights of Changes to Currently Listed Products

The benefit listing status of the following Drug Product has been changed from Restricted Benefit/Special Authorization to Restricted Benefit effective October 1, 2022:

- **PEGASYS* 180 mcg/0.5 mL injection syringe** (peginterferon alfa-2a) (HLR)

The interchangeable status for the following Drug Product on the *Palliative Coverage Drug Benefit Supplement* (*PCDBS*) has been changed effective November 1, 2022:

- **BISACODYL 10 mg rectal suppository** (bisacodyl) (JPC)

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