the DBLreport

Issue #130, February 2023

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 November 17, 2022. The Committee reviewed Manufacturer submissions for ten (10) 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 fifty-seven (57) Drug Products.

In addition to Drug Products reviewed by the Expert Committee, sixteen (16) Drug Products and Devices underwent Expedited Review for listing on the *ADBL* effective December 1, 2022, and thirty-eight (38) Drug Products underwent Expedited Review for listing on the *ADBL* effective February 1, 2023.

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 February 1, 2023:

- **BIMZELX* 160 mg/mL autoinjector & injection syringe** (bimekizumab) (UCB) via Special Authorization (SA)
- **EMGALITY* 120 mg/mL injection syringe & pen injection** (galcanezumab) (LIL) via SA
- **REBLOZYL* 25 mg/vial & 75 mg/vial injections** (luspatercept) (CLG) via SA

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

Addition of the following Entry IC Drug Products to the *ADBL* has resulted in the creation of New IC Groupings, effective February 1, 2023:

- **APO-BRIMONIDINE TIMOP 0.2%/0.5% ophthalmic solution** (brimonidine tartrate/ timolol maleate) (APX)
- **TEVA-DILTIAZEM XC 180 mg, 240 mg, 300 mg & 360 mg extended-release tablets** (diltiazem hydrochloride) (TEV)
- **TOFACITINIB CITRATE* 5 mg tablets** (various brands: AUR, PMS & TAR) via SA for the indications of Rheumatoid Arthritis & Ulcerative Colitis

Highlights of Drug Products Added

The following Natural Health Product was reviewed by the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* effective February 1, 2023:

- **PMS-POTASSIUM CHLORIDE 1.33 mEq/mL oral solution** (potassium chloride (K+)(CL-)) (PMS)

The following Drug Products were reviewed by the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* effective February 1, 2023:

- **DUPIXENT* 200 mg injection pen** (dupilumab) (SAV) via SA for the indication of Atopic Dermatitis
- **PDP-AMLODIPINE 1 mg/mL oral solution** (amlodipine besylate) (PPH)
- **PROPYLTHIOURACIL 50 mg tablet** (propylthiouracil) (PHE)

Highlights of Biosimilar Drug Products Added

The following Biosimilar Drug Product was added to the *ADBL* effective December 1, 2022:

- **SEMGLEE 100 unit/mL pen injection** (insulin glargine) (BGP)

The following Biosimilar Drug Product was added to the *ADBL* effective February 1, 2023:

- **KIRSTY 100 unit/mL pen injection** (insulin aspart) (BGP)

Highlights of Changes to Currently Listed Products

The benefit listing status of the following Drug Products (currently or recently listed) have been revised from Step Therapy/Special Authorization to a Regular Benefit effective February 1, 2023:

- **APIXABAN 2.5 mg & 5 mg tablets** (various brands: AHI, APX, AUR, BMS, JPC, MAR, MTR, NTP, SDZ, SIV & TAR)
- **APIXABAN 5 mg tablet** (MPI)

Special Authorization Criteria Changes

The Special Authorization criteria for coverage for the following Drug Product have been revised effective February 1, 2023:

- **STELARA* 45 mg/0.5 mL vial or syringe injection & 90 mg/1 mL injection syringe** (ustekinumab) (JAI)

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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