the DBL report

Issue #141, November 2024

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 17, 2024. The Committee reviewed Manufacturer submissions for thirty-eight (38) 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 five (5) Drug Products.

In addition to Drug Products reviewed by the Expert Committee, eight (8) Drug Products and Devices underwent Expedited Review for listing on the *ADBL* effective October 1, 2024, and twenty-one (21) Drug Products and Devices underwent Expedited Review for listing on the *ADBL* effective November 1, 2024.

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 Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC)

The following Drug Products were reviewed by CDA-AMC and the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* effective October 1, 2024:

- **OMVOH* 100 mg/mL injection pen & syringe and 300 mg/15 mL (20 mg/mL) vial injection** (mirikizumab) (LIL) via Special Authorization (SA)

Highlights of Drug Products Added

The following Drug Products were reviewed by the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* effective November 1, 2024:

- **SANDOZ BISOPROLOL 1.25 mg & 2.5 mg tablets** (bisoprolol fumarate) (SDZ)
- **VYEPTI* 300 mg/3 mL vial injection** (eptinezumab) (LBC) via SA

The following Natural Health Product was reviewed by the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* effective November 1, 2024:

- **PHARMARIS K8 8 MEQ sustained-release tablet** (potassium chloride (K+)) (PCI)

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 October 1, 2024:

- **JAMP IPRATROPIUM HFA 20 mcg/dose metered-dose aerosol** (ipratropium bromide) (JPC)

Addition of the following Entry IC Drug Products to the *ADBL* has resulted in the creation of New IC Groupings, effective November 1, 2024:

- **APO-BRIVARACETAM* 10 mg, 25 mg, 50 mg, 75 mg & 100 mg tablets** (brivaracetam) (APX) via SA
- **AURO-BRIVARACETAM* 50 mg & 100 mg tablets** (brivaracetam) (AUR) via SA
- **ETHOSUXIMIDE 250 mg capsule** (ethosuximide) (various brands: MAR, ODN)
- **LISDEXAMFETAMINE DIMESYLATE* 10 mg capsule** (various brands: SDZ, TEV) via Restricted Benefit (RB)

Highlights of Biosimilar Drug Products Added

The following Biosimilar Drug Products were added to the *ADBL* effective November 1, 2024:

- **STEQEYMA* 45 mg/0.5 mL & 90 mg/1 mL injection syringes** (ustekinumab) (CHC) via SA for the indication of Plaque Psoriasis (PsO)
- **JUBBONTI* 60 mg/mL injection syringe** (denosumab) (SDZ) via SA

Special Authorization Criteria Changes

Due to the listing of Rinvoq (upadacitinib) for Ulcerative Colitis, to note that combination therapy with other Janus kinase inhibitors or a sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor modulator will not be allowed, the Special Authorization criteria for coverage for the following Drug Products have been revised effective October 1, 2024:

- **XELJANZ* 5 mg & 10 mg tablets** (tofacitinib citrate) (PFI) via SA
- **TOFACITINIB CITRATE* 5 mg & 10 mg tablets** (various brands: AUR, TAR) via SA
- **TOFACITINIB CITRATE* 5 mg tablet** (various brands: JPC & PMS) via SA

Due to removal of the administrative note, the Plaque Psoriasis Special Authorization criteria for coverage for the following Drug Products have been revised effective November 1, 2024:

- **JAMTEKI* 45 mg/0.5 mL & 90 mg/1 mL injection syringes** (ustekinumab) (JPC) via SA
- **WEZLANA* 45 mg/0.5 mL & 90 mg/1 mL injection syringes & 45 mg/0.5 mL vial injection** (ustekinumab) (AMG) via SA

Delisted Products

The following Drug Products were delisted from the *ADBL* effective November 1, 2024 due to the Alberta Biosimilar Initiative:

- **STELARA 45 mg/0.5 mL injection vial or syringe & 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.

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

ABC 81171 (11/2024)