the DBL report

Issue #69, September 2012

An Official Accompaniment to the Alberta Health and Wellness Drug Benefit List (AHWDBL) 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 July 19, 2012. The Committee reviewed Manufacturer submissions for 34 Drug Products for potential listing, or change in listing status, on the *AHWDBL*.

In addition to these Drug Products, 32 generic Drug Products underwent Expedited Review for listing on the *AHWDBL* effective September 1, 2012.

The following are highlights of recent changes to the *AHWDBL*. A complete list of changes and the full *AHWDBL* can be found at

https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/dbl/publications.html

Highlights of Products Added to the AHWDBL

- **VFEND** (voriconazole) (PFI) **40 mg/mL oral suspension** was submitted as a Line Extension to the existing **50 mg & 200 mg tablets**. The Expert Committee recommended **VFEND** oral suspension be listed on the *AHWDBL* via Special Authorization as it offers a therapeutic advantage for patients who require an alternative formulation to tablets. Please refer to the current *AHWDBL* for a full listing of coverage criteria.

- **ELIQUIS** (apixaban) (BMS) **2.5 mg tablet** was initially reviewed via the CDR process. **ELIQUIS** is indicated for the prevention of venous thromboembolic events (VTE) in adult patients who have undergone elective knee or hip replacement surgery. In keeping with the recommendations from the CDR, this Drug Product has been added to the *AHWDBL* with a listing via Restricted Benefit. Please refer to the current *AHWDBL* for a full listing of coverage criteria.

A complete list of changes, as well as the full AHWDBL may be accessed at https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/dbl/publications.html.
Please refer to the current AHWDBL for explanations of coverage, including a listing of coverage criteria (where applicable).*

ABC 81171 (09/2012)

Highlights of IC Products Added

The following are established IC Groupings Drug Product, added to the AHWDBL, effective September 1, 2012:

- **JAMP-RIZATRIPTAN** (rizatriptan benzoate) (JPC)
  5 mg & 10 mg tablets

- **MYLAN-ZOLMITRIPTAN ODT** (zolmitriptan) (MYP)
  2.5 mg orally disintegrating tablet

Highlights of Products Not Added

- **MYLAN-BISOPROLOL** (bisoprolol fumarate) (MYP)
  5 mg & 10 mg tablets were not recommended to be added to the *AHWDBL* as the Manufacturer failed to provide sufficient evidence of interchangeability with an Innovator Drug Product.

Highlights of Changes to the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Drug Coverage

On September 1, 2012, the MS Drug Product **GILENYA** (fingolimod hydrochloride) **0.5 mg capsule** was added as a Special Authorization benefit to the *AHWDBL*. In addition, changes were made to Section 2 of the *AHWDBL*: Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Drug Coverage, and the coverage criteria for MS drugs. Please refer to the September *AHWDBL* update (https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/dbl/pdfs/ahw_september.pdf) for details on the changes.

Products Originally Reviewed via the Common Drug Review (CDR)

In keeping with the recommendations from the CDR, the following Drug Products have not been added to the *AHWDBL*:

- **BENLYSTA** (belimumab) (GKC) **120 mg/vial & 400 mg/vial injections**
- **EFFIENT** (prasugrel hydrochloride) (BMS) **10 mg tablet**
- **GELNIQUE** (oxybutynin chloride) (WAT) **100 mg/g topical gel**
- **OZURDEX** (dexamethasone) (ALL) **0.7 mg intravitreal implant**
- **SAPHRIS** (asenapine maleate) (BAI) **5 mg & 10 mg sublingual tablets (for the treatment of schizophrenia)**

A complete list of changes, as well as the full AHWDBL may be accessed at https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/dbl/publications.html.
Please refer to the current AHWDBL for explanations of coverage, including a listing of coverage criteria (where applicable).*