the ADBL report

Issue #72, March 2013

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 Alberta Health Expert Committee on Drug Evaluation and Therapeutics met on January 24, 2013. The Committee reviewed Manufacturer submissions for 60 Drug Products for potential listing, or change in listing status, on the *ADBL*. The Committee also considered information for a number of supplementary assessments of coverage status of 21 Drug Products.

In addition, seven (7) generic Drug Products underwent Expedited Review for listing on the *ADBL* effective March 1, 2013. Interchangeability of one (1) Drug Product was assessed for another government-sponsored program.

The following are highlights of recent changes to the *ADBL*. A complete list of changes and the full *ADBL* can be found at https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/dbl/publications.html

Highlights of 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 *ADBL*:

- **DIFICID** (fidaxomicin) (OPL) **200 mg film-coated tablet**
- **FAMPYRA** (fampridine) (BIO) **10 mg sustained release tablet**
- **LODALIS** (colesevelam hydrochloride) (VCL) **625 mg tablet**

Highlights of Expedited Entry 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 March 1, 2013:

- **TEVA-FLUVASTATIN** (fluvastatin sodium) (TEV) **20 mg & 40 mg capsules**

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 Established IC Drug Products Added

- **APO-NARATRIPTAN** (naratriptan hydrochloride) (APX) **1 mg & 2.5 mg tablets***
- **APO-NITROGLYCERIN** (nitroglycerin) (APX) **0.4 mg/dose sublingual metered dose spray**
- **APO-RIZATRIPTAN RPD** (rizatriptan benzoate) (APX) **5 mg & 10 mg orally disintegrating tablets***
- **APO-ZOLMITRIPTAN RAPID** (zolmitriptan) (APX) **2.5 mg orally dispersible tablet***
- **MYLAN-FENTANYL MATRIX PATCH** (fentanyl) (MYP) **12 mcg/hr, 25 mcg/hr, 50 mcg/hr, 75 mcg/hr & 100 mcg/hr transdermal patches***
- **PMS-RIZATRIPTAN RDT** (rizatriptan benzoate) (PMS) **5 mg & 10 mg orally disintegrating tablets***
- **TEVA-CLARITHROMYCIN** (clarithromycin) (TEV) **250 mg & 500 mg tablets**

**Coverage criteria may apply. Please refer to the full ADBL.*

Highlights of Other Additions to the ADBL

The following Drug Product was added to the *ADBL*, effective January 1, 2013:

- **NOVORAPID FLEXTOUCH** (insulin aspart) (NNA) **100 unit/mL injection**

Coverage of Controlled Release Oxycodone Drug Products

At their most recent meeting, the Committee continued to review the listing status of **OXYNEO** (oxycodone hydrochloride) (PUR) **10 mg, 15 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg, 40 mg, 60 mg, & 80 mg controlled release tablets**, pursuant to a resubmission from the Manufacturer. The Committee recommended the interchangeability designation between **OXYNEO** and **OXYCONTIN** (oxycodone hydrochloride) (PUR) be removed as available evidence supports that the introduction onto the market of the **OXYNEO** formulation has resulted in the reduction in abuse of long-acting oxycodone prescription medication.

Further to this, the Committee recommended that **OXYCONTIN** Drug Products be de-listed from the *ADBL* as they no longer possess demonstrated therapeutic advantage compared to other presently accepted therapies or treatment of the disease entity for which **OXYCONTIN** is indicated. Assessment of therapeutic advantage may include consideration of clinical efficacy, risk/benefit ratio, toxicity, compliance, clinical outcomes, Health Canada advisories, population health issues, and any factor which affects the therapeutic value of the product, class or category.

Finally, the Committee considered interchangeable submissions for **APO-OXYCODONE CR** (oxycodone hydrochloride) (APX), **CO OXYCODONE CR** (oxycodone hydrochloride) (COB), and **PMS-OXYCODONE CR** (oxycodone hydrochloride) (PMS). However, these Drug Products were not recommended for addition to the *ADBL* as they do not offer a therapeutic advantage.

Based upon these recommendations, the following products are currently the only oxycodone controlled release tablets listed on the *ADBL*:

- **OXYNEO** (oxycodone hydrochloride) (PUR) **10 mg, 15 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg, 40 mg, 60 mg, & 80 mg controlled release tablets**

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).****