the DBL report

**Issue #85, May 2015**

*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 March 12, 2015. The Committee reviewed Manufacturer submissions for thirty-three (33) 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 twenty-eight (28) Drug Products.

In addition to Drug Products reviewed by the Expert Committee, nineteen (19) Drug Products underwent Expedited Review for listing on the *ADBL* effective May 1, 2015.

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.html

# *Highlights of Products Originally Reviewed via the Common Drug Review (CDR)*

The following Drug Products were reviewed by CDR and the Expert Committee and were added effective May 1, 2015:

- **ACTEMRA*** (tocilizumab) (HLR) **80 mg/4 mL & 200 mg/10 mL vial injections** via Special Authorization for the new indication of polyarticular Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (pJIA)

In keeping with the recommendation from the CDR, the following Drug Products have NOT been added to the *ADBL*:

- **KAZANO** (alogliptin benzoate/metformin hydrochloride) (TAK) **12.5 mg/500 mg, 12.5 mg/850 mg & 12.5 mg/1000 mg tablets**
- **NESINA** (alogliptin benzoate) (TAK) **6.25 mg, 12.5 mg & 25 mg 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).****

ABC 81171 (05/2015)

# *Highlights of Line Extension Drug Products Added to the ADBL*

The following Drug Products were added to the *ADBL* effective May 1, 2015, after a Full review by the Expert Committee:

- **INNOHEP** (tinzaparin sodium) (LEO) **8,000 IU, 12,000 IU & 16,000 IU injection syringes**
- **LEVEMIR FLEXTOUCH** (insulin detemir) (NNA) **100 unit/mL injection**
- **PREMARIN** (conjugated estrogens) (PFI) **0.3 mg, 0.625 mg & 1.25 mg sustained-release tablets** as a single-source product as the old formulation Premarin products are discontinued.

# *Highlights of Natural Health Products (NHPs) Not Added*

The following Natural Health Product has not been added to the *ADBL* as it fails to demonstrate a therapeutic advantage:

- **PHARMA-K20** (potassium chloride) (PMS) **20 mEq sustained release tablet**

# *Special Authorization Criteria Changes*

The criteria for coverage via Special Authorization for the following Drug Products have been revised:

- **RISPERDAL CONSTA*** (risperidone) (JAI) **25 mg, 37.5 mg & 50 mg per vial injections**
- **INVEGA SUSTENNA*** (paliperidone palmitate) (JAI) **50 mg, 75 mg, 100 mg & 150 mg injection syringes**

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

ABC 81171 (05/2015)