the DBL report

Issue #93, September 2016

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 July 21, 2016. The Committee reviewed Manufacturer submissions for forty-four (44) 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 three (3) Drug Products.

In addition to Drug Products reviewed by the Expert Committee, four (4) Drug Products underwent Expedited Review for listing on the *ADBL* effective August 1, 2016, and six (6) Drug Products underwent Expedited Review for listing on the *ADBL* effective September 1, 2016.

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 added to the *ADBL* via Special Authorization effective August 1, 2016:

- **COSENTYX*** (secukinumab) (NOV) **150 mg/mL injection syringe**
- **XELJANZ*** (tofacitinib citrate) (PFI) **5 mg tablet**

The following Drug Products were reviewed by CDR and the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* via Special Authorization effective September 1, 2016:

- **LEMTRADA*** (alemtuzumab) (GZM) **12 mg/1.2 mL injection**
- **ZAXINE*** (rifaximin) (SLX) **550 mg tablet**

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

- **FORXIGA** (dapagliflozin propanediol monohydrate) (AZC) **5 mg & 10 mg tablets**

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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 Expedited Entry IC Drug Products to the *Palliative Care Drug Benefit Supplement* has resulted in the creation of New IC Groupings, effective September 1, 2016*:*

- **BUPIVACAINE** (bupivicaine hydrochloride) (STM) **2.5 mg/mL & 5 mg/mL injections**

The following IC Drug Products were reviewed by the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* effective September 1, 2016:

- **ACT BUPROPION XL** (bupropion hydrochloride) (APH) **150 mg & 300 mg extended-release tablets**
- **AURO-BETAHISTINE**(betahistine dihydrochloride) (AUR) **16 mg tablet**
- **NAT-GRANISETRON** (granisetron hydrochloride) (NTP) **1 mg tablet**
- **VAN-RAMIPRIL** (ramipril) (VAN) **1.25 mg, 2.5 mg, 5 mg & 10 mg capsules**

Highlights of Other Products Added

The following Drug Product was added to the *ADBL* as a Regular Benefit effective September 1, 2016:

- **AURO-BETAHISTINE**(betahistine dihydrochloride) (AUR) **8 mg tablet**

The following Natural Health Product was reviewed by the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* September 1, 2016*:*

- **JAMP-SODIUM PHOSPHATE** (sodium acid phosphate/sodium bicarbonate/potassium bicarbonate) (JPC) **500 mg/469 mg/123 mg effervescent tablet**

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