

Bulletin #606

October 13, 2004

BENEFIT CHANGES TO NBPDP

VIOXX[®] (rofecoxib) DELISTED

On September 30, 2004, Merck & Co. announced a voluntary worldwide withdrawal of Vioxx[®] (rofecoxib). The Company's decision is based on new, three-year data from a prospective, randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trial, the APPROVe (Adenomatous Polyp Prevention on VIOXX[®]) trial that indicates an increased risk of cardiovascular events such as heart attacks and strokes.

More information is available on the Merck Canada website: www.merckfrosst.ca or by calling 1-800-567-2594. Patients taking Vioxx[®] are being advised to consult their physicians about discontinuing use of the product and treatment alternatives.

Vioxx[®] has been delisted as a New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program (NBPDP) benefit. Other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) listed as benefits include the following:

REGULAR BENEFITS

Arthrotec	Ketoprofen (IR & SR)
Diclofenac (IR & SR)	Mefenamic acid
Diflunisal	Meloxicam
Floctafenine	Naproxen
Flurbiprofen	Piroxicam
Ibuprofen	Sulindac
Indomethacin	Tiaprofenic acid

RESTRICTED BENEFIT

Celecoxib	
< 65 years old	Special authorization required
65 years & older	Regular benefit

COMPARATIVE COSTS

The following chart shows the average cost of a prescription for commonly prescribed NSAIDs (Based on NBPDP usage data April to June 2004; professional fees excluded).

