

Bulletin #689

July 18, 2007

BENEFIT CHANGES TO NBPDP

This update to the New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program (NBPDP) Formulary is effective July 18, 2007.

Included in this bulletin:

- **Special Authorization Additions**
- **Drugs Reviewed and Not Listed**

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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at 1-800-332-3691.

Yours truly,

Debbie LeBlanc
New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program

SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION ADDITIONS

Darunavir
(*Prezista™*)
300mg tablets
for Plan U (HIV-infected persons)

As part of a HIV treatment regimen for treatment-experienced adult patients (Plan U beneficiaries) who have demonstrated failure to multiple protease inhibitors (PIs), and in whom less expensive PIs are not a treatment option.

Rituximab
(*Rituxan®*)
100mg and 500mg vials for IV
injection

- For the treatment of adult patients with severe active rheumatoid arthritis who have failed to respond to an adequate trial with an anti-TNF agent
 - Rituximab will not be reimbursed concomitantly with anti-TNF agents
 - Approval for re-treatment with rituximab will only be considered for patients who have achieved a response, followed by a subsequent loss of effect and, after an interval of no less than six months from the previous dose
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Sildenafil citrate
(*Revatio™*)
20mg tablets

- For the treatment of patients with World Health Organization (WHO) functional class III idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension (IPAH) who do not demonstrate vasoreactivity on testing or who do demonstrate vasoreactivity on testing but fail a trial of calcium channel blockers
 - For the treatment of patients with World Health Organization (WHO) functional class III pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) associated with connective tissue disease who do not respond to conventional therapy
 - Diagnosis of PAH should be confirmed by cardiac catheterization
 - The maximum dose of sildenafil that will be reimbursed is 20mg three times daily
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SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION ADDITIONS

Sunitinib
(*Sutent*TM)
12.5mg, 25mg and 50mg
capsules

- For the treatment of patients with c-KIT expressing (CD117+) unresectable or metastatic/recurrent gastrointestinal stromal tumour (GIST) who meet the criteria for imatinib and who have:
 - Early progression (within 6 months) while on imatinib;
 - Progression following treatment with optimum (escalated) doses of imatinib; or
 - Intolerance to imatinib
- The dose reimbursed will be 50mg per day (4 weeks on, 2 weeks off)
- Response to sunitinib therapy should be assessed at least every six months and therapy should be discontinued when there is objective evidence of disease progression
- Sunitinib will not be reimbursed concomitantly with imatinib

DRUGS REVIEWED AND NOT LISTED

The reviews of the following products found that they did not offer a therapeutic and/or cost advantage over existing therapies. Requests for coverage through special authorization will not be considered.

Rasagiline mesylate	(<i>Azilect</i> TM)	0.5mg, 1mg tablets
Sorafenib	(<i>Nexavar</i> [®])	200mg tablets