

Bulletin #715

May 7, 2008

BENEFIT CHANGES TO NBPDP

This update to the New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program (NBPDP) Formulary is effective May 7, 2008.

Included in this bulletin:

- **Special Authorization Additions and Revised Criteria**
- **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

Adalimumab

(Humira®)

40mg in 0.8mL (50mg/mL) solution for subcutaneous injection

New indication added to criteria:

For moderately to severely active Crohn's disease in patients who are refractory or have contraindications to an adequate course of 5-aminosalicylic acid and corticosteroids and other immunosuppressive therapy.

- Eligible patients should receive an induction dose of 160mg followed by 80mg two weeks later.
- Clinical response should be assessed four weeks after the first induction dose.
- Ongoing coverage for maintenance therapy will only be reimbursed for responders and for a dose not exceeding 40mg every two weeks.

Annual Cost Comparison for anti TNF-α Treatment of Crohn's Disease

Product	Strength	Dose	Dosing Interval	Cost**	Cost Induction Therapy*	1st Year Cost (includes induction)	Annual Cost (post induction)
adalimumab (Humira™)	40mg	40mg	bi-weekly	\$759.12	\$4,554.69	\$22,773.45	\$19,736.99
* Adalimumab induction therapy = 160mg week 0, 80 mg week 2 = 6 syringes in total							
infliximab (Remicade®)	100mg	5 mg/kg	week 0,2,6 and every 8 weeks thereafter	\$1,019.90	\$12,238.80	\$32,636.80	\$28,557.20
* Infliximab induction therapy = 5mg/kg at week 0, 2, & 6 = 12 vials in total Infliximab cost is for 4 vials per infusion. This is sufficient drug to treat patients who weigh between 70kg and 80kg							
** Source: McKesson Canada Maritimes Price Catalogue May - July 2008							

Entecavir

(Baraclude™)

0.5mg tablets

For the treatment of chronic hepatitis B infection in patients with cirrhosis documented on radiologic or histologic grounds and a HBV DNA concentration above 2,000 IU/mL.

Methylphenidate

(Biphentin®)

10mg, 15mg, 20mg, 30mg, 40mg, 50mg and 60mg controlled release capsules

For the treatment of Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in children age 6 to 18 years who demonstrate significant symptoms and who have tried immediate release and slow release methylphenidate with unsatisfactory results.

Requests will be considered from specialists in pediatric psychiatry, pediatricians or general practitioners with expertise in ADHD.

SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION ADDITIONS

Bosentan
(*Tracleer*[®])
62.5mg and 125mg tablets

New indications added to criteria:

For the treatment of World Health Organization (WHO) functional class III or IV pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH)

- secondary to congenital heart disease in patients who did not respond adequately to conventional therapy.
- secondary to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in patients who did not respond adequately to conventional therapy.

Costs of oral drugs for pulmonary arterial hypertension

Drug	Monthly Cost	Annual Cost
Bosentan (<i>Tracleer</i> [®]) 125mg BID	\$3,850.72	\$46,850.38
Sildenafil (<i>Revatio</i> [™]) 20mg TID	\$1,017.52	\$12,379.85

SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION – REVISED CRITERIA

Clopidogrel
(*Plavix*[®])
75mg tablets

The duration of coverage when used post intra-coronary stent implantation has been extended:

For the prevention of thrombosis post intra-coronary stent implantation for a period of up to 6 months for bare-metal stents (BMS) and 12 months for drug-eluting stents (DES).

DRUGS REVIEWED AND NOT LISTED

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

Idursulfase	(<i>Elaprase</i> [™])	6mg vial for IV infusion
Methylphenidate - resubmission	(<i>Concerta</i> [®])	18mg, 27mg, 36mg and 54mg controlled release tablets