

**QUARTERLY UPDATE  
TO THE  
49<sup>TH</sup> EDITION  
OF THE  
SASKATCHEWAN FORMULARY**

**NEW LISTINGS**

**EXCEPTION DRUG STATUS:**

- **Rofecoxib, tablet, 12.5mg, 25mg (Vioxx-MSD)**

This product is as effective as other NSAIDs in the treatment of osteoarthritis. Although short-term studies have shown rofecoxib causes fewer GI side effects than other NSAIDs, long term studies are required to determine if serious GI toxicity will occur less frequently with rofecoxib.

**Exception Drug Status Criteria:**

- a) For the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis in patients who have one or more of the following factors:
  - i) age 65 and over
  - ii) past history of ulcers
  - iii) concurrent prednisone therapy
  - iv) concurrent warfarin therapy
- b) For the treatment of patients with an intolerance to other NSAIDs listed in the Formulary.

*Note: Coverage is not available for treatment of acute pain.*

| <b>Monthly Rx Cost Comparison</b>    |                       |                            |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
|                                      | <u>Dosage</u>         | <u>Rx Cost<sup>1</sup></u> |
| <b>Vioxx</b>                         | <b>12.5mg OD</b>      | <b>\$57.81</b>             |
| <b>Vioxx</b>                         | <b>25mg OD</b>        | <b>\$57.81</b>             |
| <b>Celebrex</b>                      | <b>100mg BID</b>      | <b>\$57.81</b>             |
| <b>Celebrex</b>                      | <b>200mg OD</b>       | <b>\$57.81</b>             |
| <b>diclofenac sodium/misoprostol</b> | <b>50mg/200ug TID</b> | <b>\$74.52</b>             |
| <b>diclofenac sodium/misoprostol</b> | <b>75mg/200ug BID</b> | <b>\$68.27</b>             |
| <b>naproxen</b>                      | <b>500mg BID</b>      | <b>\$21.84</b>             |

<sup>1</sup> Includes mark-up and maximum allowable dispensing fee of \$7.08.

- **Insulin (Regular/Protamine) Lispro, injection suspension, 100U/mL, 25%/75% (5x3mL) (Humalog Mix25-LIL)**

**Exception Drug Status Criteria:**

For the treatment of patients with difficult to control diabetes.

**FULL FORMULARY:**

- Telmisartan, tablet, 40mg, 80mg (Micardis-BOE)
- Topiramate, sprinkle capsule, 15mg, 25mg (Topamax-JAN)
- Lamotrigine, chewable tablet, 5mg (Lamictal-GLA)
- Warfarin, tablet, 3mg (Coumadin-DUP)
- Fusidic Acid/hydrocortisone acetate, topical cream, 2%/1% (Fucidin H-LEO)

**ENCLOSED. . .**

**Special Review of Antibiotics**

- Selection of Antimicrobial Drugs (wall chart)
- Oral Anti-Infectives Reference Chart
  - dosing
  - costs
  - special considerations

**EXCEPTION DRUG STATUS  
(continued):**

**NEW PRODUCTS:**

- **Abacavir SO4, tablet, 300mg; oral solution, 20mg/mL (Ziagen-GLA)**

**Exception Drug Status Criteria:**

For the management of HIV. This drug, as with other antivirals in the treatment of HIV, should be used under the direction of an infectious disease specialist.

- **Zolmitriptan, tablet, 2.5mg (Zomig-AST)**

**Exception Drug Status Criteria:**

For treatment of migraine headaches where other standard therapy such as an analgesic and/or an ergotamine product have failed. Eligibility will be restricted to beneficiaries over 18 and under 65 years of age.

The maximum quantity that can be claimed through the Drug Plan is limited to 6 doses per 30 days within a 60 day period. Patients requiring more than 12 doses in a consecutive 60 day period should be considered for migraine prophylaxis therapy if they are not already receiving such therapy.

**NEW DOSAGE FORMS/  
STRENGTHS OF LISTED  
AGENTS:**

The following are covered under Exception Drug Status, with the same criteria as currently listed forms:

- Sumatriptan, tablet, 25mg (Imitrex-GLA)
- Interferon alfa-2b, multi-dose pen (kit), albumin (human) free, 18 million IU/pen, 30 million IU/pen, 60 million IU/pen (Intron-A-SCH)
- Octreotide, powder for injection, 10mg/vial, 20mg/vial, 30mg/vial (Sandostatin LAR-NVR)

**SOME OF THE PRODUCTS  
CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW  
BY THE FORMULARY  
COMMITTEE:**

- Repaglinide, tablet, 0.5mg, 1mg, 2mg (GlucNorm-NOO)
- Risedronate sodium, tablet, 30mg (Actonel-PGA)
- Zanamivir, powder for inhalation (disk), 5mg (Relenza-GLA)
- Calcitonin salmon, nasal spray, 200IU/dose (Miacalcin-NVR)
- Salmeterol xinafoate, inhaler aerosol, 25ug/dose; aerosol powder disk, 50ug/dose; powder for inhalation, 50ug/dose (Advair Diskus-GLA)

**PRODUCTS REVIEWED AND  
NOT RECOMMENDED FOR  
LISTING:**

- **Orlistat, capsule, 120mg (Xenical-HLR)**

There is modest benefit in relation to the cost of this product. The monthly cost is approximately \$170.00.

- **Imiquimod, topical cream (single-use packet), 5% (Aldara-MDA)**

The clinical benefit does not justify the incremental cost of this product compared to other treatments.

- **Fosfomycin tromethamine, oral powder (sachet), 3g (Monurol-PFR)**

The product does not offer a significant advantage over first line agents listed in the Formulary for the treatment of urinary tract infections.

- **Fenofibrate, capsule, 67mg (Lipidil Micro-FFR)**

The 67mg strength does not offer an advantage over the listed 200mg strength of micronized fenofibrate and is less convenient than the 200mg strength.

- **Modafinil, tablet, 100mg (Alertec-DPY)**

The product does not provide an advantage over listed alternatives and is more costly.