

SASKATCHEWAN FORMULARY COMMITTEE BULLETIN
Fiftieth Edition
July 2000

NEW LISTINGS
FULL FORMULARY LISTINGS:

- **Amiodarone, tablet, 200mg (Cordarone-WYA, Alti-Amiodarone-ALT)**

This medication has been moved from Exception Drug Status coverage to full Formulary listing. It is indicated for the treatment of severe cardiac arrhythmias. This drug should only be used under the supervision of a cardiologist or an internist with equivalent experience in cardiology.

- **Betahistine tablet, 4mg, 8mg (Serc-SLV)**

The 4mg strength of this medication has been moved from Exception Drug Status coverage to full Formulary listing. The new 8mg strength will also be listed as a full Formulary benefit.

- **Irbesartan/hydrochlorothiazide, tablet, 150mg/12.5mg, 300mg/12.5mg (Avalide-BMY)**

Avalide is indicated for the treatment of essential hypertension in patients for whom combination therapy is appropriate. It is not indicated for initial therapy.

NEW DOSAGE FORMS/ STRENGTHS OF LISTED AGENTS:

- Losartan potassium/hydrochlorothiazide, tablet, 100mg/25mg (Hyzaar DS-MSD)
- Pramipexole dihydrochloride, tablet, 0.5mg (Mirapex-BOE)

NEW DOSAGE FORMS/ STRENGTHS OF EXCEPTION DRUG STATUS AGENTS:

Covered under the same Exception Drug Status criteria as the currently listed forms:

- Rofecoxib, oral suspension, 25mg/mL (Vioxx-MSD)

SELECTED FIRST ENTRY GENERICS:

- Clindamycin HCl, capsule, 150mg, 300mg (Novo-Clindamycin-NOP) (Alti-Clindamycin-ALT)
- Lisinopril, tablet, 10mg (Apo-Lisinopril-APX)
- Terbinafine HCl, tablet, 250mg (pms-Terbinafine-PMS)
- Fluconazole, capsule, 150mg (Apo-Fluconazole-APX)

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

- Bisoprolol fumarate, tablet, 5mg, 10mg (Monacor-BVL)
- Diazepam, rectal gel, 5mg/ml (Diastat-DPY)
- Leflunomide, tablet, 10mg, 20mg, 100mg (Arava-AVT)
- Rosiglitazone maleate, tablet, 2mg, 4mg, 8mg (Avandia-SMJ)
- Beclomethasone dipropionate, inhalation aerosol (CFC-free), 50ug, 100ug (QVAR-MDA)

Please note the product Nu-Enalapril is not listed in the July 2000 edition of the Saskatchewan Formulary.

Restricted access to Prepulsid, through Health Canada's Special Access Programme, will be implemented in Canada. Details regarding the program are being developed by Health Canada and will be communicated to healthcare providers shortly.

Over ...
Utilization of Prepulsid

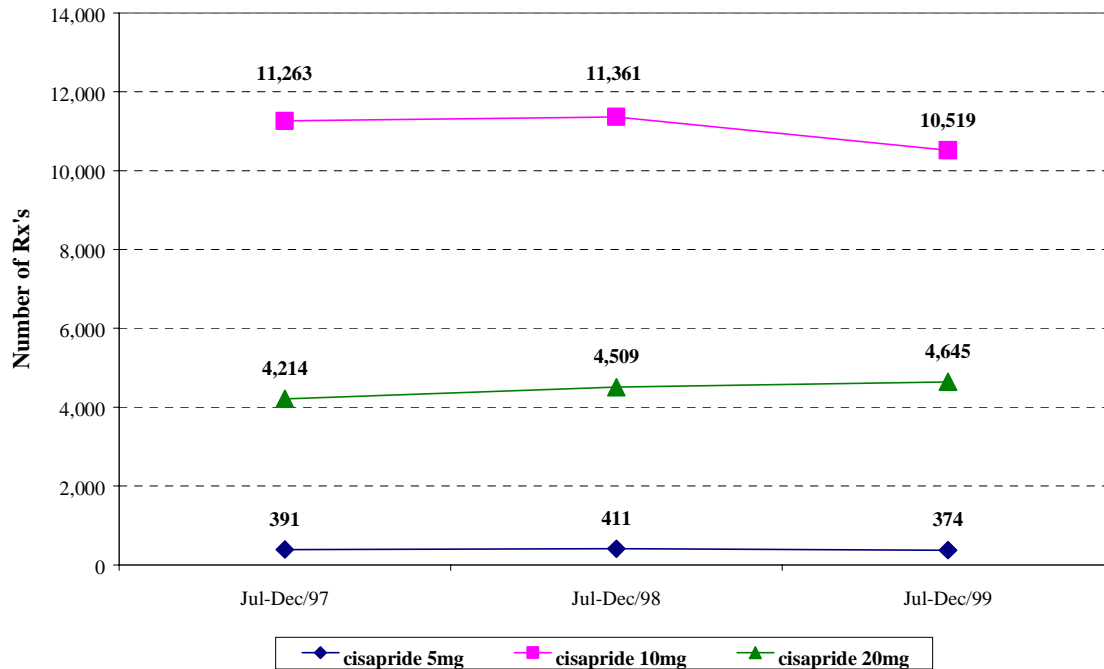
ON-LINE FORMULARY

The Saskatchewan Health Drug Plan Formulary will soon be available on-line. Some of the highlights of the site include a Formulary search capacity, application forms, EDS criteria, and Formulary Committee bulletins. The site will be updated quarterly as new drugs are added to the Formulary.

UTILIZATION OF PREPULSID (CISAPRIDE) IN SASKATCHEWAN

Prepulsid has been marketed in Canada since 1990. In September 1998, changes were made to the prescribing information indicating Prepulsid is contraindicated in patients with identified risk factors for cardiac arrhythmias. The following graph indicates utilization of Prepulsid in Saskatchewan over the past three years in the July-December time period.

CISAPRIDE UTILIZATION



Health Canada has announced a Special Access Programme providing restricted access to cisapride will soon be in place in Canada.

HOSPITAL BENEFIT DRUG LIST – now listed as Appendix B in the Formulary

This list of drug benefits under Saskatchewan Health is supplementary to the annual Saskatchewan Formulary. It is intended to expand on the Formulary as required to meet the special requirements of hospitals. The Advisory Committee on Institutional Pharmacy Practice updates the Hospital Benefit Drug List. This Committee is composed of representatives of: the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (Saskatchewan Branch), the Drug Quality Assessment Committee, the Association of Saskatchewan Health Services Executives, and officials from the Department of Health.

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