



P.O. Box 27489
 Albuquerque, NM 87125-7489
 Phone (505) 923-5700
www.phs.org

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Dear Healthcare Practitioner:

Presbyterian serves to improve the health of individuals, families and communities. We are dedicated to supporting our network of practitioners and would like to share with you recent decisions that affect our formularies and pharmacy benefits or relate to administrative changes for Presbyterian.

The Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee for Presbyterian Health Plan’s Commercial, Medicare, Medicaid, and Presbyterian Insurance Company, Inc.’s product lines met on March 21, 2007. Listed below are relevant agenda items from this P&T Committee meeting. Please note that online versions of all Presbyterian formularies are available on our Web site, www.phs.org/pharmacy/index.html as well as on www.nm-formulary.com. All formularies may also be easily downloaded onto your Palm handheld device through the Epocrates Rx software.

**P&T COMMITTEE DECISIONS
 ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO PRESBYTERIAN FORMULARIES/PDLs**

Drug	Commercial 4-Tier	Medicare	Commercial 2-Tier	Salud/NMRx
Exelon (rivastigmine) Alzheimer’s and dementia associated with Parkinson’s	3rd Tier	3rd Tier	Non-formulary	Non- formulary
Januvia (sitagliptin) Diabetes mellitus, Type 2	3rd Tier Prior Auth (PA)	3rd Tier PA	Non-formulary	Non- formulary
Finasteride (generic Proscar) BPH, symptomatic	1st Tier	1st Tier	1st Tier	1st Tier
oxybutynin SR (generic Ditropan XL) overactive bladder	1st Tier	1st Tier	1st Tier	1st Tier
meloxicam (generic Mobic) analgesic, NSAID	1st Tier	1st Tier	1st Tier	1st Tier
albuterol sulfate ER	1st Tier	1st Tier	1st Tier	1st Tier

Pharmacy Exception Criteria:

Januvia (sitagliptin): Covered for members with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus meeting the following criteria:
 Have reached the maximum dose of metformin (1500mg); or has contraindications to or is unable to tolerate metformin.

AND

A documented hemoglobin A1C of 8.0% or less.

Length of approval:

3 months and need new A1C for continuation of therapy

Discontinuation criteria:

If HbA1C goals are not met after 3 months of sitagliptin therapy, sitagliptin should be discontinued.

Formulary Management Tools

Step therapy removed: PHP Senior Care Formulary for: Evista, Protonix, Aciphex, Detrol and Detrol LA

Medication Therapy Management

Medication Therapy Management (MTM) for PHP Senior care members is available to improve usage of medications. Per the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, each prescription drug plan (PDP) and Medicare Advantage PDP (MA-PDP) that administers a Medicare Part D plan must have a medication therapy management plan in place. MTM is designed to improve care, enhance communication among patients and providers, improve collaboration among providers, and optimize medication use that leads to improved patient outcomes.

The patient meets with a clinical pharmacist for a comprehensive medication therapy review and has additional visits with the pharmacist throughout the year to address ongoing medication monitoring issues and event-based medication therapy problems.

Providers can expect to see complete medication records and suggested action plans for their patients that have opted to receive medication therapy management. MTM services can lead to improved clinical and economic outcomes for patients. Providers can refer patients directly to the PHP clinical pharmacist by calling 505-923-8359.

Safety Issues Discussed (full FDA alerts found at www.fda.gov/medwatch/)

Albuterol MDI's: FDA announces that production and sale of albuterol CFC (chlorofluorocarbons) MDI's must stop by 12/31/2008, they will be replaced by albuterol HFA. All HFA products are designated as brand name and therefore members will have to pay the brand name copay. Albuterol CFC is still available, but supply is limited and the copay is still the generic copay.

FDA directs ADHD drug manufacturers to notify patients about cardiovascular adverse events and psychiatric adverse events: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01568.html>

FDA strengthens safety information for erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (ESAs), widely-used drugs for the treatment of anemia: <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/RHE/default.htm>

FDA issues an FDA Alert and Healthcare Professional Sheet on new emerging safety concerns about Zyvox (linezolid) from a recent clinical study: <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/linezolid/default.htm>

If you have any questions or concerns about this information, please contact Larry Georgopoulos, R.Ph, via e-mail at lgeorgop@phs.org or by phone at (505) 923-5530. As always, thank you for partnering with us to improve the health of individuals, families and communities.

Sincerely,



Larry Georgopoulos, R.Ph.
Pharmacy Director
Phone: 923-8359
Fax: 923-5540
Email: lgeorgop@phs.org

Louanne Cunico

Louanne Cunico, R.Ph.
Clinical Pharmacist Specialist
Phone: 923-8359
Fax: 923-5540
Email: lcunico@phs.org
PPC 040107