

August 1, 2007

Dear Healthcare Practitioner:

Presbyterian Health Plan and Presbyterian Insurance Company's Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (P&T Committee) met on July 18, 2007 to promote appropriate use of drugs in maintaining the formularies. We are dedicated to supporting our network of practitioners and would like to share with you the decisions made at that meeting that affect our formularies and pharmacy benefits. Please note that online versions of all Presbyterian formularies are available on our web site at www.phs.org/pharmacy/index.htm, as well as on www.nm-formulary.com. All formularies may also be easily downloaded onto your handheld Palm device through the **ePocrates Rx** software.

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

Terbinafine tablets: There is now an AB rated generic to Lamisil tablets. Terbinafine is a synthetic allylamine derivative indicated for the treatment of onychomycosis of the toenail or fingernail due to tinea unguium. The committee voted to add terbinafine tablets to the Presbyterian formularies. Terbinafine tablets will require prior authorization and will be at the 3rd tier co-pay for the multi-tier formularies. For prior authorization to be approved for terbinafine, the member must meet the same criteria as Lamisil, which includes:

Onychomycosis with secondary infection of surrounding soft tissue requiring systemic antimicrobial administration.

OR

Onychomycosis, which causes pain that markedly limits the patient's ability to ambulate.

OR

Onychomycosis in patients with severe peripheral vascular disease at high risk from complications including secondary infection or amputation.

Amlodipine/Benazepril capsules: There is now an AB rated generic to four of the six strengths of Lotrel capsules. Amlodipine/Benazepril is the combination of calcium channel blocker and an ACE inhibitor. Amlodipine/Benazepril is indicated for the treatment of hypertension. The strengths that are now generic include 2.5/10, 5/10, 5/20, and the 10/20. The 5/40 and 10/40 strengths are still brand name. The committee voted to add amlodipine/benazepril capsules to the Presbyterian formularies. All strengths will still require step therapy prior to coverage and will be at the 3rd tier copay for the multi-tier formularies. The step therapy requirement requires that the member have a documented pharmacy fill within the past 90 days of a formulary calcium channel blocker or ACE inhibitor.

Trandolapril tablets: There is now an AB rated generic to Mavik tablets. Trandolapril is an ACE inhibitor indicated for the treatment for hypertension. The committee voted to add trandolapril to

the Presbyterian formularies. Trandolapril tablets will be at the 3rd tier co-pay for the multi-tier formularies. Trandolapril tablets are not covered on the Salud or Commercial 2-Tier formularies.

Fenofibrate micronized capsules and tablets: There is now an AB rated generic to Lofibra capsules and tablets. Micronized fenofibrate is indicated as adjunctive therapy to diet for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia and hypertriglyceridemia. The committee voted to add all strengths and formulations of micronized fenofibrate to the Presbyterian formularies at the 1st tier co-pay for the multi-tier formularies. Micronized fenofibrate is available as 67mg, 134mg, and 200mg capsules and 54mg and 160mg tablets.

Summary of Brand to Generic formulary decisions

| Drug Name | Commercial 2-Tier | Commercial 4-Tier | Salud/SCI/NMRX | Medicare |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Terbinafine tablets | Prior Authorization | Prior Authorization 3 rd Tier | Prior Authorization | Prior Authorization 3 rd Tier |
| Amlodipine/ benazepril capsules | Covered with Step Edit Therapy | Covered with Step Edit Therapy at 3 rd Tier | Covered with Step Edit Therapy | Covered with Step Edit Therapy at 3 rd Tier |
| Trandolapril tablets | Not Covered | Prior Authorization 3 rd Tier | Not Covered | Prior Authorization 3 rd Tier |
| Fenofibrate micronized capsules and tablets | Formulary | Formulary 1 st Tier | Formulary | Formulary 1 st Tier |

*Generic substitution is mandatory for drugs that have generic “AB-rated” equivalents available. All drugs are subject to generic substitution when an approved generic becomes available. If the member or provider requests the brand name in place of the generic, the member will be responsible for the generic co-payment plus the difference in cost (if any) between the generic and brand drug for most plans.

Tekturna (aliskiren): Tekturna was reviewed and the committee voted not to add Tekturna to the Presbyterian formularies at this time. Tekturna is a new molecular entity in the new class of direct renin inhibitors and is indicated for the treatment of hypertension. The committee agreed that there are other medications available on the formulary that represents a variety of different drug classes that adequately control hypertension.

Endometrin: The FDA has recently approved Endometrin 100mg vaginal inserts (Progesterone). Endometrin is indicated to support embryo implantation and early pregnancy by supplementation of corpus luteal function as part of an Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) treatment for infertile women. The committee voted and approved for Endometrin to be covered on the plans that have a fertility benefit and the co-pay will be the fertility co-pay.

Albuterol HFA inhalers: It was discussed at the last committee meeting on May 16th, 2007 that the FDA announced the production and sale of albuterol CFC (chlorofluorocarbons) MDI’s must stop by 12/31/2008. There are currently only three commercially available albuterol MDI HFA products

available (**ProAir HFA, Ventolin HFA, and Proventil HFA**). They are all designated as brand name products at this time and therefore members will have to pay the brand name co-pay. The committee has decided to re-evaluate the need for selecting a preferred albuterol MDI HFA product at a later date. Important features of the three available albuterol HFA inhalers:

| Product | Indication age | # of actuations | Net weight |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| ProAir HFA | ≥12 years | 200 | 8.5 grams |
| Ventolin HFA | ≥4 years | 200 | 18 grams |
| Proventil HFA | ≥4 years | 200 | 6.7 grams |

*Ventolin HFA MDI is the only one of the three that has an actuation counter. Also, please note it is only stable for 2 months once it has been opened from its original packaging.

Aranesp, Epogen, and Procrit (Erythropoietin Stimulating Agents): Recent reports have stated that there is an increase in the incidence of cardiovascular events and mortality associated with the use of an ESA product when the hemoglobin exceeds 12 g/dl. In March 2007, the FDA issued a black box warning on all ESA products. This warning states that when using an ESA for an approved indication, healthcare professionals are advised to maintain the lowest hemoglobin level consistent while avoiding the need for transfusions; patients should be monitored to ensure that levels do not exceed 12 g/dL.

The changes to the formularies, as outlined above, are based on requests from our practitioners and the recommendations of the P&T Committee. We value your input. If you have any concerns, please contact Larry Georgopoulos, R.Ph, via e-mail at lgeorgop@phs.org or by phone at (505) 923-5530, or Julie DiTucci-Reiter, R.Ph, via e-mail at jditucci@phs.org or by phone at (505) 923-5404. We can be reached Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. As always, thank you for partnering with us to improve the health of individuals, families and communities.

In addition to the formulary changes, we would like to remind you that our phone numbers have changed. The new numbers are (505) 923-5757 (in the Albuquerque area) or 1-888-923-5757 (outside the Albuquerque area). Pharmacy department hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pres Online is also available for you to verify eligibility and submit prior authorizations. Please visit the Provider page of www.phs.org for more information.

Sincerely,



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