



Health Plan
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www.phs.org

December 19, 2008

Dear Healthcare Practitioner:

The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (P&T Committee) of Presbyterian Health Plan and Presbyterian Insurance Company, Inc. (Presbyterian) met on November 19, 2008 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 website at www.phs.org/pharmacy/index.htm, as well as on www.nm-formulary.com. All formularies are downloadable onto your handheld Palm device through the **Epocrates Rx** software.

P&T COMMITTEE DECISIONS

Additions/Changes to the Presbyterian Formularies/PDLs

Dorzolamide/timolol ophthalmic solution: There is now an AB rated generic available for Cosopt® ophthalmic solution. Dorzolamide/timolol ophthalmic solution is a combination of a topical carbonic anhydrase inhibitor and a topical beta-adrenergic receptor blocking agent that is indicated for the reduction of elevated intraocular pressure in patients with open-angle glaucoma or for ocular hypertension in patients who are insufficiently responsive to beta-blockers. The committee voted to not add dorzolamide/timolol ophthalmic solution to the Presbyterian formularies at this time. Each medication in the combination is available as a separate product and both are formulary on all the Presbyterian formularies.

Galantamine tablets: There is now an AB rated generic available for Razadyne® tablets. Galantamine is an acetylcholinesterase inhibitor indicated for the treatment of mild to moderate dementia of the Alzheimer's type. The committee voted to approve adding galantamine tablets to the Presbyterian formularies.

Ocella™ tablets: There is now an AB rated generic available for Yasmin® tablets. Ocella is a combination of 3mg of drospirenone and 30mcg of ethinyl estradiol. It is an oral contraceptive that is indicated for the prevention of pregnancy. The committee voted to approve adding Ocella tablets to the Presbyterian formularies.

Formulary Pharmacy Exception Criteria Revisions

Lyrica® capsules (pregabalin): The committee voted to approve adding to the current formulary pharmacy exception criteria a quantity limit of #90 capsules per 30 days for all strengths of Lyrica. The revised criteria for Lyrica are as follows:

Indications for Approval: (with a quantity limit* of #90/30 days):

1. For partial seizures: The patient must have a documented failure at therapeutic doses on at least two preferred anticonvulsants.
2. For neuropathic pain and post-herpetic neuralgia:
The patient must have a documented failure at therapeutic doses on:
 - i. Gabapentin (1,200 to 2,400 mg/day).
AND
 - ii. One of the following preferred alternatives: an antidepressant (tricyclic, SSRIs, or venlafaxine or Effexor XR) or carbamazepine.
3. Fibromyalgia:
The patient must have a documented failure of:
 - i. A daily low-impact exercise program.
AND
 - ii. Amitriptyline at low doses (10mg to 25 mg at bedtime).
AND
 - iii. Gabapentin (1,200 to 2,400 mg/day).

*The quantity limit restriction on Lyrica does not apply to the 2009 Presbyterian Senior Care Formulary.

Subutex® sublingual tablets (buprenorphine): Subutex is a schedule III partial opioid agonist approved by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) for the treatment of opioid dependence. The committee voted to approve the following revisions* to the current pharmacy exception criteria for Subutex as follows:

Indications for Approval:

1. Induction therapy for the treatment of opioid dependence up to a maximum of 7 days.
2. Maintenance therapy for the treatment of opioid dependence that meets the following criteria:
 - Documented hypersensitivity or intolerance to Suboxone. Documentation must include either a past prescription claim history of a Suboxone trial or chart notes documenting use of Suboxone. Intolerance to Suboxone cannot be due to the use of opiates while taking Suboxone.
 - Will not be approved for use in conjunction with opiates or for the treatment of pain.

Criteria for Approval:

1. The patient has the prescription benefit in their plan for the coverage of medications for treating opioid dependence.
AND
2. The prescriber has been approved to prescribe buprenorphine which is verified by using the following website:
http://www.suboxone.com/patients/resources/find_a_doctor.aspx?found=no.

*The criteria revisions for Subutex do not apply to the 2009 Presbyterian Senior Care Formulary.

**Summary of P&T Committee Decisions
(Additions/Revisions)**

Drug Name (all strengths available are included)	Salud, SCI, NMRx	Commercial	Medicare/Senior
Galantamine tablets (generic for Razadyne)	Formulary	Tier 1	Tier 1
Lyrica capsules (pregabalin)	Not Covered PE* required QL** of #90 per 30 days	PE required Tier 3 QL of #90 per 30 days	PE required Tier 3
Ocella tablets (drospirenone 3mg /ethinyl estradiol 30 mcg) (generic for Yasmin)	Formulary	Tier 1	Tier 1
Subutex sublingual tablets (buprenorphine)	Not Covered PE required QL of 7 days supply for induction therapy	PE required Tier 3 QL of 7 days supply for induction therapy	PE required Tier 3

*PE – Pharmacy Exception

**QL – quantity limit

Note - The quantity limit restriction was not added to the 2009 Presbyterian Senior Care Formulary for Lyrica and Subutex.

SUMMARY OF P&T SAFETY ISSUES

For complete information please go to the following website:

<http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/2008/safety08.htm#chronological>

Tarceva® (erlotinib): On September 23, 2008, OSI and Genentech notified healthcare professionals that cases of hepatic failure and hepatorenal syndrome, including fatalities, have been reported during use of Tarceva, particularly in patients with baseline hepatic impairment. New information from a pharmacokinetic study in patients with moderate hepatic impairment associated with significant liver tumor burden has been provided in the revised prescribing information, and other recommendations are included in the WARNINGS and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION sections.

Raptiva® (efalizumab): On October 17, 2008, the FDA notified healthcare professionals of extensive labeling changes, including a Boxed Warning, to highlight the risks of life-threatening infections, including bacterial sepsis, viral meningitis, invasive fungal disease, progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy and other opportunistic infections with the use of Raptiva. In addition, the prescribing information will be updated to describe a potential risk for the permanent suppression of the immune system with repeat administration of Raptiva in children.

Ethex Corporation: On November 11, 2008, Ethex Corporation and the FDA notified healthcare professionals of a voluntary recall of five generic products. The five generic products include: Propafenone tablets, isosorbide mononitrate extended release tablets, morphine sulfate extended release and immediate release tablets, and dextroamphetamine sulfate tablets. For more information on the specific lot numbers affected by this recall see the manufacturer's recall notice on the FDA website listed above.

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, by e-mail at lgeorgop@phs.org or by phone at (505) 923-5530. He 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.

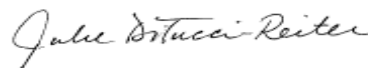
In addition to the formulary changes, we would like to remind you that our phone numbers have changed. The new numbers are (505) 923-5757 or 1-888-923-5757. Pharmacy Department hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pres Online is also available for you to verify eligibility and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

Thank you for partnering with us to improve the health of individuals, families, and communities.

Sincerely,



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