MC-Rx

Powered by ProCare Rx

Volume 2020 #04

Prepared for 02/17/2020

Drug Information Updates

Pizensy Receives FDA Approval — 02/12/2020

The FDA recently approved a new osmotic laxative, Pizensy (lactitol – Braintree Laboratories). Osmotic laxatives work by attracting more water into the intestines, which softens solids and makes them easier to eliminate. Pizensy is approved to relieve chronic idiopathic constipation (CIC) for adults. To be dispensed as a powder in multi-dose bottles or single-dose packets, the recommended dose is 20gm mixed into 4 ounces to 8 ounces of water, coffee, or another drink once a day with food. Doses may be lowered to 10gm/day if stools are too soft. Because Pizensy may interfere with the absorption of other drugs, patients should take it two hours or more before other drugs or they should wait two hours or more after taking it to take other medications.

Formulary Status: Pizensy with be reviewed at the next P&T Committee in June.

Alternate for Alimta Approved, but not Launched — 02/08/2020

Pemfexy™ (pemetrexed for injection), by Eagle Pharmaceuticals was approved as a substitute for Eli Lilly's Alimta. Pemfexy can be used alone or in combination with cisplatin to treat malignant pleural mesothelioma and various types of non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). It is given by intravenous (IV) injection at a dose of 500mg/m^2 on the first day of each 21-day treatment cycle. Because it may interfere with the activity of bone marrow, patients receiving Pemfexy need supplementation with oral doses of folic acid every day and intramuscular (IM) injections of vitamin B12 once every three weeks.

Formulary Status: Pemfexy is a medical

Belviq/Belviq XR Removed from Market — 02/09/2020

Following a request by the FDA, Eisai, Inc. is removing Belviq® (lorcaserin) tablets and Belviq XR® (lorcaserin extended-release) tablets from the market. Both drugs were approved to be used along with diet and exercise to manage weight for patients who are obese or who are overweight and who also have other significant health issues, such as diabetes and hypertension. In post-marketing studies, the FDA discovered an unexpected relationship between patients taking lorcaserin and the development cancer, with patients on it for long periods seeming to be most at risk.

The FDA is advising patients to stop taking Belviq and Belviq XR, to dispose of any remaining tablets and to discuss other treatment options with their doctors. Prescribers should counsel patients on alternate weight-loss methods, although no additional or special cancer screenings are recommended

Formulary Status: Excluded; no action required

IMPENDING FDA REVIEWS SCHEDULED FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS:

02/20: Meloxicam intravenous (Baudax Bio, Inc.): A new formulation of the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID), meloxicam; IV

02/21: Bempedoic acid (Esperion): An adenosine triphosphate (ATP) citrate lyase (ACL) inhibitor for once-daily treatment of patients who have elevated LDL cholesterol and who need additional LDL-C lowering despite the use of current therapies; oral

02/21: Eptinezumab (Lundbeck): A calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) inhibitor for the prevention of migraines; IV

GENERAL INFORMATION:

More information will be provided as it becomes available. Visit FDA.gov for more information.