

MC-Rx

Powered by ProCare Rx

Current News: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

CORONAVIRUS

Click on the Link above for Important Information

Drug Update

Drug Information Updates

Pediatric Indication Approved for Taltz

03/26/2020

Taltz® (ixekizumab – Eli Lilly) subcutaneous (SC) injection received approval for treating moderate-to-severe psoriasis for patients as young as six years old. Taltz decreases inflammation by binding to interleukin (IL)-17A and inhibiting interactions with the IL-17 receptor. FDA approved to treat adults with psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis, Taltz can be used alone or in combination with methotrexate or another conventional disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (cDMARD), but not along with other biologic DMARDs. It is available in single-use, pre-filled autoinjectors and syringes, each containing 80mg with weight based dosing.

Formulary Status: Taltz is a tier 3 non-preferred specialty brand drug on the National Formulary.

Imfinzi Adds to FDA Approval

03/27/2020

AstraZeneca's PD-L1 inhibitor, Imfinzi® (durvalumab) is now approved as first-line treatment, along with chemotherapy that includes etoposide and either carboplatin or cisplatin, for adults who have extensive-stage small cell lung cancer (ES-SCLC). The recommended dose for the new indication is 1,500mg of Imfinzi as a one-hour intravenous (IV) infusion that is given before the chemo drugs once every three weeks. After four doses, the chemo is stopped and the Imfinzi continues at 1,500mg once a month until the cancer gets worse or the treatment becomes too harsh for the patient to bear.

Formulary Status: Imfinzi is not covered under the pharmacy benefit as it is administered in a healthcare setting.

Intravenous Triferic Approved

03/27/2020

Rockwell Medical was granted approval of a new formulation of Triferic® (ferric pyrophosphate citrate injection). The iron replacement product is indicated to maintain hemoglobin levels for adult patients who depend on hemodialysis to manage chronic kidney disease (CKD). Previously available only to be mixed with dialysis fluid, Triferic now has an injectable form, Triferic® ANVU, that is infused through an IV pump over three to four hours each time the patient receives hemodialysis.

Formulary Status: Triferic ANVU is not covered under the pharmacy benefit as it is administered in a healthcare setting.

Zeposia Approved for Relapsing Forms of MS

03/25/2020

Zeposia® (ozanimod) capsules, a sphingosine 1-phosphate (S1P) receptor modulator, was approved to treat adult patients with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (RMS), including relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS), clinically isolated syndrome (CIS), and active secondary progressive multiple sclerosis (SPMS). Before treatment begins, prescribers will need to do a baseline assessments for each patient, after which titration is required. Although approved, its launch is being delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Zeposia will be dispensed through specialty pharmacies.

Formulary Status: Zeposia will be reviewed at the next P&T Committee meeting in June.

Ranitidine Warning

04/01/2020

After alerts that it issued last fall, the FDA decided to ask all manufacturers of products containing ranitidine be removed from the market. Ranitidine was available both with and without a prescription, sold under the brand-name, Zantac® (Chatterm, a subsidiary of Sanofi), and numerous generics. It was widely used to treat gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), heartburn and stomach ulcers. See the FDA Alerts notice on our website.

IMPENDING FDA REVIEWS SCHEDULED FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS:

04/04 Reblozyl® (luspatercept-aamt - Acceleron): A new indication for the modified activin receptor type IIB fusion protein to treat patients who have very low-to-intermediate-risk myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS)-associated anemia with ring sideroblasts and who require red blood cell transfusions; SC injection

GENERAL INFORMATION:

For more information, please either visit FDA.gov or contact your account manager.