

Drug Review

Recently Introduced Products

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Drug Name	Indication	Potential Plan Impact
Invirase 500mg tablet	Treatment of HIV in infected adults	\$\$
Truvada tablet	Treatment of HIV in infected adults	\$\$
Trelstar and Trelstar LA injection	Palliative treatment of hormone-dependent advanced prostate cancer	\$
Fosavance tablet	Osteoporosis in men and menopausal women	\$
Flomax CR 0.4mg tablet	Benign Prostatic hyperplasia	\$

\$ Little increase estimated in drug plan expenditure
\$\$ Drug plan expenditure estimated to be somewhat increased
\$\$\$ Potential for large increase in drug plan expenditure

PravASA – A combination pill for secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease

PravASA is composed of pravastatin and 81mg enteric coated aspirin ("ASA"). Pravastatin is a cholesterol lowering drug, in the drug class known as "statins". Enteric coated aspirin is used to prevent clots by thinning the blood. Both drugs have the indication of secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease.

Coronary heart disease is the major contributor to mortality rate, followed by stroke. Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in 36% of Canadians, irrespective of sex and age¹. The current treatment recommended by the Canadian Cardiovascular Society (adapted from the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology guidelines) is ASA and lipid-lowering agents, along with other risk reducing medications like high blood pressure medications, where appropriate².

PravASA is indicated in patients for whom treatment with both pravastatin and 81mg enteric coated aspirin is appropriate. PravASA costs the same as pravastatin. The cost is about \$0.95 to \$2.70 per day (dosing of 10mg once daily up to 40mg twice daily). Enteric coated ASA is also covered under ClaimSecure's prescription plan and costs about \$0.10 per day. As such, patients using PravASA, instead of using pravastatin and aspirin separately, could potentially provide a savings to the drug benefit plan.

Therefore, PravASA will be fully covered under ALL ClaimSecure drug programs, including ClaimSecure's **Managed Formularies**. If you require additional information about PravASA, please contact Shellina Sevany in ClaimSecure's Clinical Services Department at (905) 949-3025 or 1-888-479-7587 ext.3025.

Recommendation: Full Coverage

ClaimSecure reserves the right to amend in part or in its entirety stated special authorization clinical guidelines

References:

1. Cardiovascular Disease Surveillance Online. <http://dsol-smed.hc-sc.gc.ca>. Accessed April 3, 2006.
2. Smith SC Jr, Blair SN, Bonow RO, et al. AHA/ACC Scientific Statement: AHA/ACC guidelines for preventing heart attack and death in patients with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease: 2001 update: A statement for healthcare professionals from the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology. *Circulation*. 2001 Sep 25; 104(13):1577-9.

