

Drug Review

Recently Introduced Products

Volume V, Issue 8

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Plan Impact
Duragesic 12 patch	Management of chronic pain with round-the-clock opioid analgesia.	\$
Orencia	Treatment of adults with moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis.	\$\$\$
	\$ Little increase estimated in drug plan expenditure	
	\$\$ Drug plan expenditure estimated to be somewhat increased	
	\$\$\$ Potential for large increase in drug plan expenditure	

Sutent® – A New Alternative for GI Tumours

Sutent® is indicated for the treatment of gastrointestinal stromal tumours (GIST), a rare stomach and intestinal cancer. The current treatment includes surgery for non-metastatic GIST and Gleevec® for metastatic GIST. Sutent® is to be used as second-line therapy to Gleevec®.

Sutent®, like Gleevec®, is an oral medication that is dispensed in a retail setting. One cycle of Sutent® consists of 50mg once daily for 4 weeks followed by 2 weeks off, resulting in about 9 cycles per year. The cost is \$248.15 per day, for an annual expenditure of \$60,000+.

Since Sutent® is indicated for a rare disease and can become very costly, Sutent® will be placed under **Special Authorization** for clients who have adopted ClaimSecure's **Managed Formularies**. For plans with **open** formularies, Sutent® will automatically be covered. Should you wish to exclude or cover Sutent® under Special Authorization, please contact Shellina Sevany in ClaimSecure's Clinical Services Department at (905) 949-3025 or 1-888-479-7587 Ext. 3025.

Recommendation: Special Authorization

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

Nexavar® – Another Option in Kidney Cancer (Renal Cell Carcinoma “RCC”)

Nexavar® is indicated for a rare disease – Renal Cell Carcinoma (“RCC”) or cancer of the kidney. Treatment includes surgical removal of the tumour, followed by radiation, if the cancer has metastasized.

Other treatments include chemotherapy and cytokines like Interferon® or Proleukin®, which are administered as IV infusions in a hospital outpatient setting. RCC is generally resistant to chemotherapy. Nexavar®, an oral tablet, represents another option. The recommended dose is 400mg (2x200mg) twice daily. Nexavar® costs \$175.00 per day, for an annual expenditure of \$63,900.

For clients who have adopted ClaimSecure's **Managed Formularies**, it will be placed under **Special Authorization** to ensure patients have tried and failed or cannot tolerate cytokine therapy. For plans with **open** formularies, Nexavar® will automatically be covered. Should you wish to exclude or cover Nexavar under Special Authorization, please contact Shellina Sevany in ClaimSecure's Clinical Services Department at (905) 949-3025 or 1-888-479-7587 Ext. 3025.

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