



Recently Introduced Products

| Drug Name | Indication | Potential Impact | Expected Avg. Annual Cost |
|-----------|---|------------------|---------------------------|
| Avamys™ | For the treatment of seasonal allergic rhinitis and the associated symptoms in patients 12 years of age or older. | \$ | \$291 |
| Emend™ | For the prevention of acute and delayed nausea and vomiting due to cancer chemotherapy | \$ | N/A |

\$: Est. drug plan expenditure increase of <1%* \$\$: Est. drug plan expenditure increase of 1-5%* \$\$\$: Est. drug plan expenditure increase of >5%*

Avastin® – Advancement in Treating Metastatic Colorectal Cancer (mCRC)

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of death from cancer and the third most common type of cancer in Canada. The five-year survival rate of patients with advanced or metastatic colorectal cancer is less than 10%. Treatment of mCRC predominantly consists of chemotherapy. Without chemotherapy, the median survival of patients with mCRC is approximately 6 months.¹

Avastin® is a monoclonal antibody; it is not a chemotherapeutic agent. It is given in combination with chemotherapy for the treatment of mCRC. While chemotherapy attacks the cancerous tumor directly, Avastin® blocks the blood vessels that surround the tumor. Avastin® blocks cancer tumor growth by inhibiting the growth of new blood vessels that feed the tumor and ultimately allow it to grow (antiangiogenic effect). By preventing the growth of new blood vessels, Avastin® starves the tumor of oxygen and other nutrients. Avastin® has shown to be effective when used in combination with other chemotherapy agents and when added to standard chemotherapy drugs for mCRC, patient survival improved by 4.7 months.¹

The recommended dose of Avastin® is 5mg/kg of body weight given once every 14 days as an IV infusion over the progression of the disease. Avastin® is infused intravenously over 90 minutes.² Therefore, for an average 70kg patient and for the average treatment duration of 8 months, Avastin® cost approximately \$30,300 per year.

In Canada, most Provincial Drug Plans are responsible for cancer chemotherapy and since Avastin® is administered in a hospital setting, it is excluded from all ClaimSecure formularies. Currently, in Canada, Avastin® is covered in British Columbia through the B.C. Cancer Agency, in Newfoundland/Labrador and some Quebec hospitals according to the eligibility guidelines set by each hospital. For the remaining provinces, including Ontario, Avastin® is **not** eligible for coverage through the provincial formularies, **nor** through the respective Provincial Cancer Agencies or Boards, **nor** through any hospital budget.

The manufacturer of Avastin®, Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd., has established a Patient Assistance Program, designed to assist and support oncologists, hematologists, and ultimately the patients. For additional information or to request a patient enrollment form, please call 1-888-748-8926.

Should you wish to cover Avastin® under your plan, please contact your Client Services Representative. If you require additional information about Avastin®, please contact Shellina Sevany, Manager, Clinical Services Department, at (905) 949-3025 or 1-888-479-7587 ext.3025.

Recommendation: Exclude

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

References:

- 1) Avastin® Private Payer Submission Binder. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd., September 16, 2005
- 2) Avastin® Product Monograph. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd., September 21, 2007

