



Recently Introduced Products

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Impact	Expected Avg. Annual Cost
Atripla® Tablet	For use alone or as a complete regimen or in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adults.	\$\$	\$14,490.00
Hyzaar™ 100/12.5mg Tablet	For the treatment of essential hypertension in patients for whom combination therapy is appropriate.	\$	\$430.70
Ralivia™ Tablet	For the management of pain of moderate severity in adults who require continuous treatment for several days or more.	\$	\$419.75 - \$1113.25
Risperdal Consta™	for the management of the manifestations of schizophrenia and related psychiatric disorders	\$	\$137.28

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

Emend™- An Effective Therapy for Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting (CINV)

In 2007, an estimated 159,900 new cases of cancer are projected to occur in Canada. Cancer chemotherapy treatments generally consist of several cycles, with typical regimens consisting of four to six cycles. Multi-drug regimens are very common and comprise the majority of treatments administered to cancer patients. Each additional drug added to the chemotherapy regimen increases the likelihood of CINV.¹

Emend™ is a new anti-emetic (prevents or alleviates vomiting) drug that acts in the brain. Emend™, used in combination with two other drugs (a 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist and dexamethasone), is approved for nausea and vomiting associated with highly emetogenic cancer chemotherapy.² An increase of up to 20.9% of patients had favourably significant improvements when Emend™ was added to the anti-emetic regimen versus the anti-emetic drugs previously available (5-HT₃ receptor antagonist and a corticosteroid such as dexamethasone).¹

Chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting pose serious problems for many patients receiving chemotherapy. Inadequate control of CINV may lead to reduced compliance with chemotherapy drugs. This could reduce the drug's therapeutic benefit and the drug's cost-effectiveness. The distress associated with CINV could lead to the refusal of the most clinically effective and cost effective cancer therapy. Clinical studies show that a delay in chemotherapy or reduction of chemotherapy doses can result in suboptimal outcomes and ultimately decrease the quality of life and/or increase absenteeism. Patients may even withdraw from chemotherapy if the CINV is severe. Uncontrolled CINV may lead to dehydration, bone fracture, and weight loss adding to the exacerbation of physical wasting and malnutrition already seen in cancer patients.¹

Emend™ is taken on day one of chemotherapy and again on days 2 and 3. The Emend™ three-day anti-emetic regimen costs approximately \$90.54 per chemotherapy cycle, whereas, the previously available 5 day anti-emetic regimen of a 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist and a corticosteroid costs approximately \$45.70 to \$182.80 per chemotherapy cycle.

ClaimSecure clients will automatically include Emend™ under the existing open drug formularies, as well as the managed formularies.

If you require additional information about Emend™, please contact Shellina Sevany, Manager, 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) Emend™ Private Payer Submission Binder. Merck Frosst Canada Inc., September, 2007.
- 2) Emend™ Product Monograph. Merck Frosst Canada Inc., August 23, 2007.

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* Based on the Financial Impact Analysis per 100 000 lives covered
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