

# Drug Review

Recently Introduced Products

Volume VI, Issue 1

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Plan Impact
Altace HCT	Treatment of hypertension	\$
Factive	Antibiotic for infections	\$
Prexige	Treatment for arthritis	\$
Sculptra	Treatment for facial fat loss	\$\$
	\$ Little increase estimated in drug plan expenditure	
	\$\$ Drug plan expenditure estimated to be somewhat increased	
	\$\$\$ Potential for large increase in drug plan expenditure	

## MabCampath – A new cancer drug for leukemia

MabCampath is a monoclonal antibody used to treat B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (“B-CLL”). B-CLL is the most common adult leukemia occurring in the Western Hemisphere and mainly affects the elderly<sup>1</sup>. Although patients can survive up to 20 years after diagnosis, once the disease progresses, death is inevitable. For patients who do not respond to first-line drugs, the prognosis is poor, with only 40% surviving beyond 12 months. These first-line agents are administered in a hospital setting and are covered under hospital cancer care budgets.

MabCampath represents another option for these patients. In clinical studies in patients with advance and chemotherapy-resistant B-CLL, MabCampath was shown to increase patient survival by 16 months in patients with chemotherapy-resistant B-CLL and by 32 months in patients with advanced B-CLL<sup>2</sup>. Like the first-line agents, MabCampath is administered intravenously in a hospital setting.

MabCampath is infused intravenously over 2 hours, 3 times a week. The average course of treatment is 8 weeks and costs approximately \$15,600 per treatment. Since MabCampath must be administered in a hospital setting, it can be covered under hospital cancer care budgets. As such, MabCampath will be excluded from all ClaimSecure formularies.

If you require additional information about MabCampath, please contact Shellina Sevany, Clinical Pharmacist, 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. Ries LA, Wingo PA, Miller DS, et al. The annual report to the nation on the status of cancer, 1973-1997, with a special section on colorectal cancer. *Cancer*. 2000;88:2398-2424.
2. Keating MJ, Flinn I, Jain V, et al. Therapeutic role of alemtuzumab (Campath-1H) in patients who have failed fludarabine: Results from a large international study. *Blood* 2002;99(10):3554-3561.

