

# Drug Review

Recently Introduced Products

Volume VI, Issue 2

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Plan Impact
Infergen 0.03mg/mL	Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis C	\$\$\$
Zaditor preservative-free ophthalmic	Temporary relief of itching, allergic eyes	\$
Sebivo	Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis B	\$\$\$
Prevacid Fastab 15mg	Duodenal and gastric ulcers, reflux, GERD	\$
Zytram XL	Short-term management of moderate pain	\$\$

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

## Prexige® – Another option for patients requiring anti-inflammatory drugs

Prexige® is a selective COX-2 inhibitor indicated for managing pain in osteoarthritis (“OA”). Traditionally, Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (“NSAIDs”) have been used in managing pain in OA. Prexige® represents another option for patients with OA.

Selective COX-2 inhibitors are equally effective as NSAIDs in managing pain, without the gastro-intestinal (“GI”) side-effects<sup>1</sup>. This advantage over traditional NSAIDs led to the increased use of COX-2 inhibitors<sup>2</sup> and this class of drugs grew dramatically, until new data emerged demonstrating cardiovascular complications and increased hypertension. A few COX-2 inhibitors, e.g. Vioxx®, were removed from the market due to deaths from cardiovascular complications.

Prexige® is taken once daily and costs approximately \$1.30 per day. Meloxicam (a non-traditional NSAID), on the other hand, costs approximately \$0.45 per day. Since the cost of Prexige® is almost 3 times the cost of Meloxicam and both are equally effective, for ClaimSecure’s **Managed Formularies**, Prexige will be included in the Special Authorization program as second-line therapy in the treatment of osteoarthritis for those patients who have tried and failed at least one NSAID and Meloxicam. For ClaimSecure’s open formularies, Prexige® will be fully covered.

If you require additional information about Prexige®, please contact Shellina Sevany, Clinical Pharmacist, 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

#### References:

1. Bombardier C, Laine L, Reicin A, et al. VIGOR Study Group. Comparison of upper gastrointestinal toxicity of rofecoxib and naproxen in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. N Engl J Med 2000;343: 1520-28.
2. Prexige Submission Binder. Novartis Pharma Canada. 2007-02-20

