

Drug Review

Recently Introduced Products

Volume VI, Issue 4

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Plan Impact
Cosopt Ophthalmic	Treatment of elevated intraocular pressure (IOP) in glaucoma patients	\$
Diovan 320mg	Treatment of mild to moderate hypertension	\$
Zyprexa 20mg	Treatment of schizophrenia and for the acute treatment of manic or mixed episodes in bipolar I disorder	\$
	\$ Little increase estimated in drug plan expenditure	
	\$\$ Drug plan expenditure estimated to be somewhat increased	
	\$\$\$ Potential for large increase in drug plan expenditure	

Fosrenol™ – Binding Dietary Phosphate

Fosrenol™ (lanthanum carbonate hydrate) is a prescription drug indicated for patients with end stage renal disease (ESRD) who have excess blood phosphate levels. Patients with ESRD cannot excrete the excess phosphate due to kidney dysfunction. Fosrenol™ works in the gut and binds dietary phosphorous that is released from food during digestion.¹

In patients with ESRD, binding dietary phosphate is important in eliminating excess phosphate from the body. Excess phosphate binds to calcium and decrease the calcium available for bone metabolism. This can lead to osteoporosis and other calcium deficiencies. High phosphate in the body can also lead to cardiovascular disease.²

In the past, private drug plans have not been subject to treatment costs associated to renal disease. Renal failure is typically treated in hospital renal dialysis units, however, this support therapy, Fosrenol™, is available in an oral tablet form and thus may be purchased at the retail pharmacy.

Currently, Fosrenol™ is priced at a daily cost of \$4.47 to \$13.41. The renal dialysis population is not an extensive one for the Canadian private insurer; therefore, for ClaimSecure Managed Formularies and Open Formularies, it is recommended that Fosrenol™ be fully covered.

If you require additional information about Fosrenol™, please contact Rosa Andretta, Clinical Pharmacist, Clinical Services Department, at (905) 949-3003 or 1-888-479-7587 ext.3003.

Recommendation: Full Coverage

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

References:

1. Health Canada website, Drugs and Health Products. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/sbd-smd/phase1-decision/drug-med/nd_ad_2007_fosrenol_102240_e.html. Accessed April 23, 2007.
2. Doctor's Guide website, Global Edition. <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=131>. Accessed April 23, 2007.

