



Recently Introduced Products

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Impact	Expected Avg. Annual Cost
Nevanac 0.1% Ophthalmic Suspension	For the management of pain and inflammation associated with cataract surgery	\$	\$73.92
Nexium granules (10mg/sachet)	For the treatment of conditions, in children 1-17 years of age, where a reduction in gastric acid secretion is required such as reflux esophagitis and nonerosive reflux disease (i.e. heartburn and regurgitation)	\$	\$1215.45

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

Seroquel XR® - New Indication for Bipolar Patients

Seroquel XR® has recently been approved for the acute management of depressive episodes and manic episodes associated with bipolar disorder, in addition to the treatment of schizophrenia¹. The active medication, quetiapine fumarate, has been available on the market as immediate-release Seroquel® since 1997. Seroquel XR®, the extended-release formulation of quetiapine fumarate, allows once daily dosage as opposed to twice daily with immediate-release Seroquel®, thus improving drug compliance.

Bipolar Disorder affects approximately 1% of the Canadian population and is thought to affect both males and females equally. Most commonly appearing during adolescence and young adulthood, bipolar disorder is characterized by severe fluctuations in mood; alternating between highs (manic episodes) and lows (depressive episodes). During a manic episode, an individual may experience extreme happiness, hyperactivity, shorter attention span and difficulty sleeping. Depressive episodes are characterized by feelings of sadness, loss of interest, fatigue and sometimes suicidal thought. Some individuals may function normally for years between highs and lows, whereas other individuals experience rapid-cycling without periods of stability. This will impact the individual's relationships, performance in the workplace and basic day-to-to functioning. Bipolar disorder may lead to absenteeism and increased hospitalizations, therefore, having a significant economic impact, as well².

Seroquel XR® may be added to the existing mood-stabilizing regimen or used alone to treat individual manic or depressive episodes³. The annual cost of treatment with Seroquel XR® is approximately \$1,400.00 to \$3,900.00, based on a daily dosage of 300 to 800 mg a day. Seroquel XR® is priced equivalent to regular Seroquel®, which is fully covered. Therefore, Seroquel XR® will be fully covered under ALL ClaimSecure drug plans, including ClaimSecure Managed Formularies.

If you require additional information about Seroquel XR®, 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) Seroquel XR® Product Monograph. AstraZeneca (Canada) Inc, August 2008.
- 2) A Report on Mental Illnesses in Canada. Chapter 2: Mood Disorders. Accessed on October 10, 2008 at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/miic-mmac/index-eng.php>
- 3) Yatham LN, Kennedy SH, et al. Canadian Network for Mood and Anxiety Treatments (CANMAT) guidelines for the management of patients with bipolar disorder: update 2007. *Bipolar Disorders*. 2006; 8: 721-739.

