



## Recently Introduced Products

| Drug Name  | Indication   | Potential Impact | Expected Avg. Annual Cost |
|------------|--|------------------|---------------------------|
| Xarelto    | Prevention of venous thromboembolic events (VTE) in patients who have undergone elective total hip replacement (THR) surgery or total knee replacement (TKR) surgery | \$               | \$243.04                  |
| Travatan Z | Treatment of elevated intra-ocular pressure in open angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension  | \$               | \$394                     |

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

## Nevanac® - New treatment option for cataract post-surgery care

Cataracts are one of the leading causes of visual impairment in Canada and account for approximately 48% of blindness globally<sup>1</sup>. A cataract is a clouding of the natural lens of the eye. If left untreated, the lens progressively loses transparency and obstructs the passage of light into the eye, causing various degrees of vision impairment and possible blindness<sup>2</sup>.

Cataracts are most commonly age-related, beginning as early as mid-life and progressing slowly over years. Some risk factors for cataracts include long-term exposure to ultra-violet light, family history, diseases such as diabetes and hypertension and excessive exposure to certain medications. Treatment involves the surgical removal of the natural lens, which is replaced by a permanent, artificial lens<sup>2</sup>. Despite the refinement of surgical techniques, this invasive procedure triggers post-surgical inflammation. Inflammation can lead to pain and surgical complications that impede proper healing, hence the importance of proper post-surgical care<sup>3</sup>.

Current treatments for post-surgical inflammation include topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory suspensions (NSAIDs) and corticosteroids, often used in combination. Nevanac® (nepafenac ophthalmic suspension, 0.1%) has recently been approved for the management of pain and inflammation associated with cataract surgery. Nevanac® is equally effective in reducing pain and inflammation as are the other current topical NSAIDs in that class (Voltaren®, Acular®, etc.). Nevanac® is applied three times daily as opposed to four times daily with Voltaren®, potentially leading to increased patient compliance and cost savings by reducing the number of bottles required to complete a dosage regimen<sup>3</sup>.

One course of treatment with Nevanac® is approximately \$73.92, which is similar to the cost of Voltaren®. Since Nevanac® will be used for short-term therapy, it will be fully covered under ALL ClaimSecure drug plans including ClaimSecure's Managed Formularies.

*If you require additional information about Nevanac®, 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) Resnikoff S, Pascolini D et al. Global data on visual impairment in the year 2002. Bulletin of the World Health Organization. November 2004 (82)11. p. 844-852.
  - 2) [http://www.nei.nih.gov/health/ataract/cataract\\_facts.asp](http://www.nei.nih.gov/health/ataract/cataract_facts.asp) accessed November 6, 2008.
  - 3) Nevanac® Private Payer Submission Binder. Alcon (Canada), August, 2008.

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