



## Recently Introduced Products

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Impact	Expected Avg. Annual Cost
Cymbalta™ Delayed Release Capsules	For the treatment of symptoms associated with Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) and for the management of neuropathic pain in diabetic patients	\$\$	\$1299.40
Exelon® Patch	For the treatment of symptoms in patients with mild to moderate dementia and associated with Alzheimer's Disease	\$	\$1565.85

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

## Torisel™ and Revlimid® – New Cancer Drugs

Torisel™ is a new cancer drug for the treatment of advanced Renal Cell Carcinoma (a cancer of the kidney). The recommended dose is 25mg once a week (\$1250 per vial per week) at an annual cost of \$65,000.<sup>1</sup> Torisel™ is administered by intravenous infusion over a period of thirty to sixty minutes in an appropriate setting, such as a hospital or dedicated clinic, by qualified healthcare professionals; therefore, it should be covered under the hospital cancer budget. Currently, other drugs used to treat advanced kidney cancer, namely Nexavar® and Sutent®, are funded by various provincial cancer agencies across Canada. Should Torisel™ not be covered by the hospital cancer budget, it is available through a compassionate use program, Torisel™ Access Program. For more information regarding the program, the toll free number is 1-877-482-7457.

Revlimid® is indicated for patients with transfusion-dependent anemia due to Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS), representing a small population of patients. Patients with MDS have bone marrow that does not produce enough mature blood cells.<sup>2</sup> Revlimid® can slow the progress of incurable bone marrow cancer. Prior to Revlimid®, patients relied on blood transfusions to manage the symptoms (mostly fatigue) associated with low red blood cell counts and Revlimid® reduces the need for transfusions.

Currently, Revlimid® is not available for reimbursement through any of the Provincial Drug Formularies or Cancer Care Agencies. Revlimid® can only be administered to patients who are registered with and meet all the existing criteria of the RevAid<sup>SM</sup> Program. Only program registered physicians and pharmacists may prescribe and dispense this drug therapy. Revlimid® 10mg is given once a day at a cost of \$361.00. Therefore, the annual cost, excluding pharmacy markup and fees, is \$131,765.

To ensure the integrity of group drug plan cost containment measures, both Torisel™ and Revlimid® will be automatically excluded from all ClaimSecure open plans and Managed Formulary plans. However, should you wish to cover either Torisel™ or Revlimid®, please contact your ClaimSecure Client Service Associate.

*If you require additional information about Torisel™ or Revlimid®, please contact Shellina Sevany, Manager, 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*

Nexavar® is a registered trademark of Bayer Inc.  
Sutent® is a registered trademark of Pfizer Canada Inc.

#### References:

- 1) Torisel™ Product Monograph. Wyeth Canada, December 19, 2007.
- 2) Revlimid® Product Monograph. Celgene, January 17, 2008.

HEALTH LIBRARY | MENU SANTÉ



claimsecure.com / securindemnite.com

\* Based on the Financial Impact Analysis per 100 000 lives covered  
© 2008 ClaimSecure Inc.