



Recently Introduced Products

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Impact	Expected Avg. Annual Cost
Diovan-HCT™ 320/12.5mg and 320/25mg tablets	For the treatment of hypertension in patients in whom combination therapy is appropriate	\$	\$416.00
Intence® tablet	For the treatment of HIV-1 infection, in treatment-experienced adult patients who have failed prior therapy	\$	\$7,957.00
Volibris™ tablet	Treatment of primary pulmonary arterial hypertension (“PAH”) in patients who have not responded to conventional therapy	\$\$	\$43,800.00

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

Stalevo™ - Simplifying dosing in Parkinson's disease treatment

Parkinson's disease (“PD”) is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder, characterized by tremor, rigidity, and bradykinesia (slowness of movement). PD affects the dopamine-containing neurons of the midbrain, resulting in depletion of dopamine¹. Its cause is unknown and diagnosis is based on presenting signs and symptoms.

Levodopa (“l-dopa”) has been the cornerstone treatment of PD since the 1960s because of its rapid onset and its ability to reduce the cardinal motor features of the disorder i.e. tremor, rigidity and bradykinesia². In fact, virtually all PD patients will require l-dopa therapy at some stage of their illness. When it was first marketed, large amounts of l-dopa were required to produce a good clinical response. However, these larger doses were associated with severe peripheral side-effects such as nausea, vomiting and orthostatic hypotension (low blood pressure due to pooling of the blood). Thus combinations of various inhibitors with l-dopa were developed, along with long-acting versions of these combinations to prevent “wearing off” (or symptom re-emergence) effects between doses.

In clinical settings, due to their complementary mechanisms of action, the combination of l-dopa/carbidopa (or Sinemet™) and entacapone (Comtan™) are routinely administered together³. Stalevo™ is a combination of all three drugs in one pill: l-dopa, carbidopa and entacapone. By combining 2 pills into one and making it smaller, there is less pill burden and less pill wastage resulting in increased compliance.

The annual cost of treatment with Stalevo™ is approximately \$4550, which is less than the cost of taking a combination of the 2 medications, Sinemet™ (annual cost approximately \$880) and Comtan™ (annual cost approximately \$4351). Stalevo™ will be fully covered under ALL ClaimSecure drug plans, including ClaimSecure Managed Formularies.

If you require additional information about Stalevo™, 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) Lang AE, Lozano AM. Parkinson's disease: first of two parts. N Engl J Med 1998; 339:1044-53.
- 2) Koller WC. Levodopa in the treatment of Parkinson's disease. Neurology 2000; 55(11 Suppl 4):S2-7; discussion S8-12.
- 3) Stalevo™ Private Payer Submission Binder. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc, April, 2008.

