



Recently Introduced Products

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Impact	Expected Avg. Annual Cost
Frova® tablet	For the acute treatment of migraine attacks with or without aura in adults	\$	\$669 up to \$10,176
Relistor™ injection	For the treatment of opioid-induced constipation in patients with advanced illness receiving palliative care	\$\$	\$6,935

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

Update on Provincial Coverage of Avastin®

Until the beginning of 2008, as reported in our Drug Review volume VI, issue 10, Avastin® was only covered in British Columbia, Newfoundland/Labrador, and some Quebec hospitals according to the eligibility guidelines set by each hospital. Since then, Saskatchewan (effective February, 2008), Nova Scotia (effective April, 2008) and Quebec (effective April, 2008) have extended cancer care coverage to include Avastin®.

On July 2, 2008, it was announced that Cancer Care Ontario will cover Avastin® for the first-line treatment of patients with advanced colorectal cancer who meet the criteria. The criteria for coverage in Ontario is: (i) the patient has metastatic colorectal cancer i.e. the cancer is spreading; (ii) the patient is being treated in a first-line setting i.e. hospital setting; and (iii) the patient is taking FOLFIRI (i.e. irinotecan, another chemotherapeutic agent) concomitantly.

Funding is available for a maximum of 16 cycles of treatment. Physicians must complete a form verifying that the patient meets the eligibility criteria (available online from the Cancer Care Ontario website at: http://www.cancercare.on.ca/documents/Bevacizumab_1stLine_metastCRC_Part1.pdf).

In Québec, Avastin® is listed under the RAMQ ("Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec) formulary. The criteria for coverage of Avastin is: (i) first-line treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer in combination with a fluoropyrimidine chemotherapeutic agent; or (ii) second-line treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer in combination with a fluoropyrimidine and oxaliplatin or irinotecan in patients who have never received Avastin® treatment.

Private plan sponsors must provide coverage equal to that of the RAMQ formulary in Quebec. Therefore, for Quebec members who meet the above criteria, ClaimSecure must pay for the cost of treatment with Avastin®. The annual cost of Avastin® is approximately \$30,300. In all other province, since Avastin® is an IV drug administered in a hospital setting, Avastin® is excluded from all ClaimSecure formularies, unless coverage is specifically requested by individual client sponsors.

If you require additional information about Avastin® 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

