



Recently Introduced Products

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Impact	Expected Avg. Annual Cost
Atacand® 32 mg tablet	For the treatment of mild to moderate essential hypertension	\$	\$416.00
DermOtic® 0.01% Oil ear drops	For the treatment of moderate to severe chronic eczematous external otitis in adults and children 12 years of age or older	\$	\$243.00

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

Relistor™ - Unblocking opioid-induced constipation in patients with advanced illness

Relistor™ is the first product approved for opioid-induced constipation (“OIC”) in patients with advanced illness receiving palliative care¹. For patients with advanced illness, such as incurable cancer, end-stage emphysema, cardiovascular/heart failure, Alzheimer’s disease/dementia or HIV/AIDS, close to 86% are on opioids and almost 90% of these patients are affected by constipation².

Opioid receptors are found in the central nervous system, as well as peripherally in the GI tract. Activation of the peripheral opioid receptors causes the GI tract to slow down, resulting in dry, hard stools and OIC³. OIC is managed through the use of over-the-counter stimulant laxatives and stool softeners. However, many patients require multiple bowel treatments and if left untreated or unresolved, OIC can cause a bowel obstruction requiring physical interventions such as enemas.

Relistor™ is an opioid-receptor antagonist which blocks the peripheral opioid receptors in the GI tract. Studies have shown that there is an immediate laxation response within 4 hours of administration of Relistor™¹. Relistor™ is injected subcutaneously (i.e. under the skin) every other day as needed.

The annual cost of treatment with Relistor™ can range from \$152 to \$3,468, depending on use. Many ClaimSecure clients will fully cover Relistor™ under their existing open drug formularies. Since Relistor™ is a prescription product and has a very narrow indication, it is likely to be used only by palliative care patients with advanced illness. For these reasons, Relistor™ will be placed under Special Authorization for clients who subscribe to ClaimSecure Managed Formularies.

If you require additional information about Relistor™, please contact Shellina Sevany, Manager, Clinical Services Department, at (905) 949-3025 or 1-888-479-7587 ext.3025.

Recommendation: Special Authorization

ClaimSecure reserves the right to amend in part or in its entirety stated special authorization clinical guidelines

References:

- 1) Relistor™ Private Payer Submission Binder. Wyeth Canada, August, 2008.
- 2) Pappagallo M. Incidence, prevalence, and management of opioid bowel dysfunction. Am. J. Surg. 2001; 182(suppl15): 11S-18S.
- 3) Knowles CH, Martin JE. Slow transit constipation: a model of human gut dysmotility. Review of possible aetiologies. Neurogastroenterol Motil 2000; 12:181-196.



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