



## Recently Introduced Products

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Impact	Expected Avg. Annual Cost
Rasilez HCT	For the treatment of mild to moderate essential hypertension in patients for whom combination therapy is appropriate	\$	\$434.35
Vyvanse	For the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in children aged 6 to 12 years.	\$\$	\$1,295.75

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

## Zolinza<sup>®</sup> - A new treatment option for patients with Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma (CTCL)

Zolinza<sup>®</sup> (vorinostat) is an oral cancer drug indicated to treat the dermatological symptoms of advanced CTCL. CTCL initially causes scaly, pruritic (itchy) plaques and/or tumours of the skin. Disease progression ranges from ulceration and secondary infection of skin lesions to systemic manifestations involving the lymph nodes, blood and internal organs. This disfiguring disease is very rare, with approximately 3,000 diagnosed cases in Canada. It affects men twice as often as women and is diagnosed most often in the senior population<sup>1</sup>.

There are multiple, available treatment options for CTCL, none of which are curative. Early stage therapies are topical, including corticosteroids, retinoids, imiquimod (Aldara<sup>®</sup>), ultraviolet A irradiation (PUVA), and total skin electron beam therapy. Systemic therapies are introduced in the advanced stages where the disease is widespread and/or resistant to topical treatment. Therapies include interferon alpha injections, stem cell transplant, alemtuzumab (MabCampath<sup>®</sup>) and other chemotherapy regimens<sup>1,2</sup>. The duration of response to treatment is temporary for most therapies, including Zolinza<sup>®</sup>.

According to a study, approximately 30% of patients using Zolinza<sup>®</sup> saw significant improvement of skin lesions and 32% experienced relief from pruritus. The duration of response to treatment with Zolinza<sup>®</sup> ranged from a few months to over a year, most often lasting around 6 months<sup>1,3</sup>. Zolinza<sup>®</sup> is administered once daily and its annual cost of treatment is \$110,230.00 per patient.

Zolinza<sup>®</sup> will be excluded from all ClaimSecure open drug formularies and Managed Formularies for the following reasons: 1) there are multiple other treatment options available; 2) it is temporarily effective and not curative; 3) it treats a rare disease, and 4) it has the potential to become cost-prohibitive. Currently, Zolinza is not funded by Cancer Care Ontario, most likely due to the cost outweighing its benefit. Zolinza's coverage status will be re-evaluated once further information on provincial coverage and financial assistance programs becomes available.

*If you require additional information about Zolinza<sup>®</sup>, please contact Genevieve Coutu, Clinical Pharmacist, Clinical Services Department, at (905) 949-3031 or 1-888-479-7587 ext.3031.*

### Recommendation: Exclude

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

#### References:

- 1) Zolinza<sup>™</sup> Private Payer Submission Binder. Merck Frosst Canada Ltd., October, 2009.
- 2) Schwartz, RA. Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma. <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1098342-overview>. Accessed November 18, 2009.
- 3) Olsen, EA *et al.* Phase IIB Multicenter Trial of Vorinostat in Patients with Persistent, Progressive, or Treatment Refractory Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma. *Journal of Clinical Oncology* (2007) Vol.25 (21): p. 3109- 3115.

