



## Recently Introduced Products

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Impact	Expected Avg. Annual Cost
Olmotec <sup>®</sup>	Treatment of mild to moderate essential hypertension	\$	\$362
DDAVP <sup>®</sup> MELT 240 mcg	For the treatment of Central Diabetes Insipidus (CDI) and Primary Nocturnal Enuresis (PNE) i.e. "Bedwetting"	\$	\$2,670

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

## YAZ<sup>®</sup> - A New Low-Dose Oral Contraceptive and Acne Therapy

YAZ is a new low-dose oral contraceptive that is indicated for conception control, as well as the treatment of mild to moderate acne vulgaris in women 14 years of age and older. YAZ contains a combination of estrogen and progestin, 0.02 mg ethinyl estradiol (EE) and 3.0 mg drospirenone (DRSP), respectively. YAZ's progesterone derivative, DRSP, has multiple properties that potentially provide added benefit over other oral contraceptives. DRSP counteracts water retention, which may reduce bloating and weight gain in some users. It also helps reduce inflammatory and non-inflammatory acne lesions by blocking the male sex hormones that cause acne<sup>1,2</sup>.

YAZ is fabricated by the same manufacturer as Yasmin, which is also indicated for contraception and treatment of moderate acne vulgaris. Compared to Yasmin, YAZ provides a lower dose of estrogen without compromising its efficacy in preventing pregnancy. It also has a unique 24/4-day dosing schedule. Instead of the standard 21 days on / 7days off regimen, YAZ is administered on a 28-day cycle with 24 days of active pills followed by 4 days of inert, placebo (sugar) pills, during which menses occur. Theoretically, the additional 3 days of active pills reduce hormonal fluctuation in the body<sup>1</sup>. In turn, more stable hormone levels throughout the cycle and a lower estrogen dose may reduce the risk of potential side-effects common with oral contraceptives such as nausea, mood swings, headache and bloating<sup>2</sup>.

As a side note, in the United States, YAZ has become the first FDA-approved oral contraceptive to treat Pre-menstrual Dysphoric Disorder (PMDD), a condition where emotional and physical symptoms occur 1 to 2 weeks prior to menstruation<sup>2</sup>. In other words, YAZ's multiple and potential future indications may expand its market.

Currently, all oral contraceptives, including Yasmin and Alesse, are fully covered. The annual cost of treatment with YAZ is approximately \$188.50. Since YAZ is similarly priced to other covered oral contraceptives, it will be fully covered on all ClaimSecure Drug Benefit Plans, including ClaimSecure Managed Formularies.

*If you require additional information about YAZ<sup>®</sup>, 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*

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claimsecure.com / securindemnite.com

References:

- 1) YAZ<sup>®</sup> Private Payer Submission Binder. Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals December, 2008.
- 2) YAZ. <http://www.yaz-us.com/front>. Accessed February 9, 2009.

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

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