



Recently Introduced Products

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Impact	Expected Avg. Annual Cost
Inspra	As an adjunct to standard therapy, to reduce the risk of mortality following myocardial infarction, in clinically stable patients who have evidence of heart failure and left ventricular systolic dysfunction (LVEF ≤ 40%)	\$	\$908.85
Coversyl Plus HD	For the treatment of mild to moderate essential hypertension in patients for whom combination therapy is appropriate	\$\$	\$393.12

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

Vectibix[®] – Helping in the fight against Colorectal Cancer

Colorectal cancer is the fourth most common type of cancer in Canada after lung, breast and prostate cancer. Over 20,000 new cases are diagnosed yearly. Typically, colorectal cancer (“CRC”) originates as a polyp on the cellular lining of the colon or rectum, which becomes cancerous. As CRC progresses, cancer cells may migrate to other organs such as the liver, lungs, brain and ovaries via the bloodstream or lymphatic system. This advanced stage is referred to as metastatic CRC (“mCRC”). The 5-year survival rate for patients with mCRC is estimated at 5%, making CRC the second leading cause of cancer related deaths. Current chemotherapy regimens for mCRC prolong survival rates up to 20 months, thus the need for effective treatment for chemotherapy refractive mCRC^{1,2}.

Vectibix[®] (panitumumab) is a monoclonal antibody therapy for the treatment of patients with mCRC who have tried and failed frontline chemotherapy treatments¹. Like Avastin[®], Vectibix[®] is not a chemotherapy agent. Chemotherapy agents directly attack and kill the cancerous tumor. Vectibix[®], on the other hand, inhibits the growth of new blood vessels that surround and feed the tumor. As a result, Vectibix[®] deprives the tumor of oxygen and ultimately blocks tumor growth and promotes death of cancer cells. According to clinical studies, Vectibix[®] reduces the rate of progression of mCRC by approximately 55%; however, 5 year-survival rate data is unavailable as of yet^{1,2}.

Vectibix[®] is administered by intravenous (“IV”) infusion at the recommended dose of 6mg/kg of body weight once every 2 weeks. It costs approximately \$633 per 100 mg/5 ml vial. Since the dose used is based on body weight, the annual cost of treatment varies. For a 75 kg individual, the annual cost of treatment is approximately \$82,290.00. Currently Vectibix is covered under the provincial drug plans of B.C. and Ontario through the Special Authorization process and remains under review for coverage for all other Canadian provinces. Since Vectibix[®] is an IV cancer drug, administered at hospitals and has potential for use in unapproved indications as seen with other monoclonal antibody drugs, it is excluded from all ClaimSecure drug plans and Managed Formularies.

If you require additional information about Vectibix[®], 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

References:

- 1) Vectibix[™] Private Payer Submission Binder. Amgen Canada Inc., June, 2009.
- 2) Tomislav, D. Colon Cancer, Adenocarcinoma: Treatment & Medication. eMedicine. <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/277496-treatment>
Accessed June 15, 2009.

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