



Recently Introduced Products

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Impact	Expected Avg. Annual Cost
Amlodipine	Generic Norvasc [various brands available]; for the treatment of mild to moderate essential hypertension	\$	\$240.90

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

Tykerb[®] – New Treatment Option for Metastatic Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the most common malignancy affecting women in Canada. It is expected that 22,700 new cases will be diagnosed in 2009. Among breast cancer patients, approximately 20% have tumours that over-express the ErbB2 (HER2) receptor, a protein that plays a key role in cell growth and division. This subgroup of women has a reduced survival rate and poor prognosis compared to those whose tumours contain normal quantities of this receptor^{1,2}. Until recently, trastuzumab (Herceptin[®]), an intravenous cancer drug administered in hospital settings, was the only therapeutic agent available to block HER2 in breast cancer tumors, leaving few options for patients resistant to this therapy¹.

Tykerb[®] (lapatinib ditosylate) is the first oral agent to block HER2 in patients who have failed prior therapy or relapsed while using Herceptin[®]. Tykerb[®] is administered in combination with Xeloda[®] (capecitabine), another oral chemotherapeutic drug. It is indicated in patients with HER2-positive, advanced breast cancer who have failed first-line therapies such as taxanes, anthracyclines and Herceptin[®]. Although data is not yet fully mature, survival rates are trending upward with this drug combination^{1,3}.

The recommended dose of Tykerb[®] is 1,250 mg taken once daily. The annual cost of treatment with Tykerb[®] alone is \$42,888. In combination with Xeloda[®], the total annual cost is \$54,000. ClaimSecure clients will fully cover Tykerb[®] under their existing open drug formularies. However, for clients who subscribe to ClaimSecure Managed Formularies, Tykerb[®] will be placed under Special Authorization. The Special Authorization program will ensure that plan members have tried and failed first-line therapies, such as a taxane, an anthracycline and Herceptin[®]. In addition, Special Authorization will allow coordination of benefits with available provincial healthcare plans.

If you require additional information about Tykerb[®], 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) Tykerb[™] Private Payer Submission Binder. GlaxoSmithKline Inc, July, 2009.
- 2) Markman, M. Breast Cancer and HER2. <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1689966-overview> Accessed July 15, 2009.
- 3) Blackwell, KL, *et al.* A phase III randomized comparison of lapatinib plus capecitabine versus capecitabine alone in women with advanced breast cancer that has progressed on trastuzumab: updated efficacy and biomarker analyses. *Breast Cancer Res Treat* (2008) 112: 553- 543.

HEALTH LIBRARY | MENU SANTÉ



claimsecure.com / securindemnite.com

* Based on the Financial Impact Analysis per 100 000 lives covered
© 2009 ClaimSecure Inc.