



Recently Introduced Products

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Impact	Expected Avg. Annual Cost
Azarga®	For the reduction of intraocular pressure (IOP) in patients with open-angle glaucoma when combination therapy is appropriate	\$	\$255.50

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

Premarin® - Pricing Update

In April 2009, Wyeth Canada increased the pricing of all oral Premarin® dosage strengths to \$0.98, an increase of over 600%. This resulted in the de-listing of oral Premarin® from numerous drug formularies, including the Ontario Drug Benefit formulary. ClaimSecure continued to cover Premarin® as pricing was in line with topical estrogen products. After the acquisition of Wyeth, Pfizer Canada reduced the pricing of all Premarin® dosage strengths from \$0.98 to \$0.28. This price review, effective February 1, 2010, re-aligned the cost of Premarin® with other oral estrogens, including Estrace® and Ogen®¹. ClaimSecure continues to reimburse Premarin® as a fully covered benefit in Open and Managed Drug Formularies.

Omnitrope® - First available Subsequent Entry Biologic (“SEB”)

Omnitrope® (somatropin [rDNA origin] for subcutaneous injection) is a recombinant human growth hormone. It is the first subsequent entry biologic drug (“SEB”) approved by Health Canada. Omnitrope® is used for the long-term treatment of children with growth failure due to inadequate secretion of endogenous growth hormone. In adults, it is used for long-term replacement therapy when growth hormone deficiency is due to an underlying hypothalamic or pituitary disease. It is also used for adults who experienced growth deficiency during childhood. Other human growth hormone products available on the market include Humatrope®, Saizen®, Nutropin® and Serostim®. According to Sandoz, the manufacturer, Omnitrope® offers a 20% to 30% price discount while providing equal efficacy and safety to the aforementioned products².

The cost of treatment with human growth hormone varies depending on body weight, age and gender. The typical annual cost of Omnitrope® is \$14,956.80 for the treatment of adults and \$8,101.56 for pediatric patients. As with all human growth hormones, Omnitrope® is fully covered for Open Drug Formularies, and placed under Special Authorization for ClaimSecure groups that subscribe to the Managed Formulary or the Specialty Drug Programs. Special Authorization ensures that plan members use these products for their approved indications and allows for coordination of benefits with available provincial healthcare plans. However, since Omnitrope® offers potential cost savings without impacting patient care, ClaimSecure will review and modify Special Authorization approval guidelines for the human growth hormone drug class in the near future. For further clarification on our Special Authorization approval guidelines, please refer to our website at: http://www.claimsecure.com/content/forms/specialauth_list_en.pdf

If you require additional information about Premarin® or Omnitrope®, please contact Genevieve Coutu, Clinical Pharmacist, Clinical Services Department, at (905) 949-3031 or 1-888-479-7587 ext.3031.

Recommendation: Special Authorization

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

References:

- 1) Premarin™ Private Payer Submission. Pfizer Canada Inc, January, 2010.
- 2) Omnitrope™ Private Payer Submission Binder. Sandoz Canada Inc, September, 2009.

