



Recently Introduced Products

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Impact	Expected Avg. Annual Cost
Besivance [®]	For the treatment of patients one year of age and older with bacterial conjunctivitis	\$	\$26
Firmagon [®]	For the testosterone suppression in patients with advanced hormone-dependent prostate cancer in whom androgen deprivation is warranted	\$	\$4,411

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

Afinitor[®] – A new oral cancer treatment for metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma

Afinitor[®] (everolimus) is a new oral cancer treatment for patients with metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma (“mRCC”) of clear cell morphology, or kidney cancer. In 2009, kidney cancer was the tenth most common cancer among Canadians; accounting for 3.1% (men) and 2.2% (women) of all newly diagnosed cancers¹. Due to a lack of initial symptoms, up to one half of patients are diagnosed in the advanced stages of the disease (locally-invasive or mRCC). In addition to kidney cancer's resistance to chemotherapy and radiation, late diagnosis reduces the chance of a cure and shortens life expectancy. Patients with stage III and stage IV (mRCC) kidney cancer have a 42% and 11% five-year survival rate, respectively^{1,2}.

Currently, there are three drugs approved by Health Canada to treat mRCC. Torisel[®] (temsirolimus) is administered intravenously and considered a first-line therapy. Sutent[®] (sunitinib) and Nexavar[®] (sorafenib), recommended as first and second-line therapies, respectively, are taken orally. Afinitor[®] is indicated to treat patients who have disease progression while on Sutent[®] or Nexavar[®]. According to clinical trials, Afinitor[®] increased progression-free survival from 1.87 months to 4.9 months, and reduced the risk of cancer progression by 67% in patients who failed Sutent[®] or Nexavar[®]¹. However, studies have not demonstrated a direct benefit on overall survival. Afinitor[®] is taken orally once daily.

The average annual cost of treatment with Afinitor[®] is \$67,890. This is in line with the annual cost of the other oral renal cancer treatments. Therefore, like Sutent[®] and Nexavar[®], Afinitor[®] 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 have tried and failed first-line therapies and allows coordination of benefits with available provincial cancer agencies.

If you require additional information about Afinitor[®], 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) Afinitor[™] Private Payer Submission Binder. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc, January, 2010.
- 2) Sachdeva, K. Renal Cell Carcinoma. <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/281340-overview> Accessed March 11, 2010.

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