



Recently Introduced Products

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Impact	Expected Avg. Annual Cost
Prezista [®] 75 mg	For treatment-experienced HIV-infected pediatric patients aged 6 years and older who weigh at least 20 kg	\$	\$4,109.90
Silkis [®]	For the treatment of mild to moderate plaque psoriasis (psoriasis vulgaris) with up to 35% body surface area involvement	\$	\$1,648.56

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

Extavia[®] – Latest biologic treatment for patients with Multiple Sclerosis

Extavia[®] (interferon beta 1-b) is a new biologic drug for the treatment of patients with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). MS is a chronic autoimmune disease that causes lesions in the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord). Approximately 70% of patients develop clinical symptoms between 20 and 40 years of age. Symptoms include fatigue, pain, ataxia (impaired coordination), vision problems, bladder disturbance and cognitive changes. These symptoms typically develop progressively, with patients experiencing temporary increases in the severity of symptoms, called relapses. As the disease advances, there is a progression of physical disability without distinct relapses. The prevalence of MS in Canada is among the highest in the world, with an estimated 55,000 to 75,000 affected Canadians. To date, the exact cause of MS is unknown and there is no cure.

The goal of treatment is to maintain or improve the patient's quality of life by 1) slowing the progression of disability and 2) reducing the frequency and severity of relapses. Currently, there are five treatments approved by Health Canada to treat MS: Betaseron[®] (interferon beta-1b), Copaxone[®] (glatiramer acetate), Avonex[®] and Rebif[®] (both interferon beta-1a), and Tysabri[®] (natalizumab). Extavia[®] is the identical medicinal product as Betaseron[®], produced with identical manufacturing and establishment standards. Therefore, Extavia[®] is identical in efficacy and safety to Betaseron[®]. Like Betaseron[®], it is administered by subcutaneous injection every other day.

The average annual cost of treatment with Extavia[®] is \$18,182.88. This represents a 10-15% discount over Betaseron[®]. Copaxone[®], Avonex[®], Rebif[®], Betaseron[®] and Tysabri[®] are 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. Extavia[®] is also placed under Special Authorization to ensure that plan members use the medication for its approved indications and to allow coordination of benefits with available provincial programs.

If you require additional information about Extavia[®], 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) Extavia[™] Private Payer Submission Binder. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc, March, 2010.
- 2) Dangond, F. Multiple Sclerosis. <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1146199-overview> Accessed April 22, 2010.

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