



Recently Introduced Products

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Impact	Expected Avg. Annual Cost
Climara Pro patches	For the relief of menopausal and postmenopausal symptoms	\$	\$304.72
Levemir Flexpen	Once a day subcutaneous administration for the treatment of Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes mellitus in adult or pediatric patients	\$	\$1098.60

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

Pradax® - A novel oral anticoagulant

Pradax® has been recently approved for the prevention of venous thromboembolism (“VTE”), or blood clots, in patients who have undergone total hip replacement (“THR”) surgery or total knee replacement (“TKR”) surgery. Pradax® is the first oral drug in the class of drugs known as direct thrombin inhibitors. Thrombin is the final enzyme involved in coagulation (blood clotting)¹. Pradax® binds specifically to thrombin to prevent coagulation. Furthermore, its effects are reversible, so that coagulation resumes once the drug is metabolized and removed from the body.

Anticoagulation therapy is important in preventing VTE in THR and TKR patients. VTE is a common complication in these patients and can result in delayed hospital discharge, readmission, recurrent thrombosis in the future and increased risk in cardiovascular events such as myocardial infarction and stroke². If the blood clots, or VTE, grow large enough, it can lead to pulmonary embolism and premature death.

Current therapy includes low molecular weight heparins (“LMVs” such as Fraxiparine Forte injection), Arixtra injection and Coumadin tablets. The LMVs and Arixtra are injections and must be administered by appropriate healthcare personnel. Coumadin, which works by inhibiting the production of vitamin K, is an oral agent but requires ongoing blood level monitoring for dosage adjustment and has many potential drug-drug interactions. Pradax®, on the other hand, is given once daily, has a low potential for drug-drug interactions, and does not require coagulation monitoring. It is recommended for use once daily for 10 to 35 days following surgery.

The annual cost of treatment with Pradax® is approximately \$275.00, which is less than the cost of the LMVs and Arixtra. Since Pradax® will be used acutely and within a narrow therapeutic indication, it will be fully covered under ALL ClaimSecure drug plans, including ClaimSecure Managed Formularies.

If you require additional information about Pradax®, please contact Shellina Sevany, Manager, Clinical Services Department, at (905) 949-3025 or 1-888-479-7587 ext.3025.

Recommendation: Full Coverage

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

References:

- 1) Pradax® Private Payer Submission Binder. Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd, July, 2008.
- 2) Sørensen HT, Horvath-Puho E, et al. Venous thromboembolism and subsequent hospitalisation due to acute arterial cardiovascular events: a 20-year cohort study. *Lancet*. 2007; 370(9601):1773-9.



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