### Recently Introduced Products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Name</th>
<th>Indication</th>
<th>Potential Impact</th>
<th>Approx. Cost Per Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jaydess</td>
<td>For conception control for up to 3 years</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$95.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### Prezcobix® – New Treatment Option Combining Protease Inhibitor and Boosting Agent for HIV infection

Prezcobix® is a fixed dose combination of Prezista, which is a Protease Inhibitor (PI), and a recently licensed PI enhancer, Cobicistat. Prezista® is approved for the treatment of HIV infection in treatment-naïve and treatment-experienced patients that do not have resistance or mutations associated with Prezista. Cobicistat increases systemic levels of co-administered antiretroviral therapies (ARTs), specifically those that are metabolized by the CYP3A enzyme. Since Prezista® is a once-daily, fixed dose combination pill, it reduces pill burden and increases patient compliance—a major issue in this population. The treatment cost of Prezista® annually is approximately $9,092.15. Although convenient, clinical trials have shown that Prezista® provides similar safety and efficacy as Prezista® and Norvir®, also a PI enhancer, available as separate agents.

HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus—a virus that attacks the immune system, resulting in a chronic, progressive illness that leaves people vulnerable to infections. The immune system has many kinds of white blood cells to fight infections. HIV attacks the white blood cells, called CD4 Cells. The virus gets inside the CD4 cells and makes copies of itself. Then, it kills the CD4 cells and repeats the cycle. The immune system tries to control HIV by making more CD4 cells. But when the immune system cannot make CD4 cells fast enough, the amount of virus in the body goes up, weakening the immune system. Due to this impairment, individuals with HIV have an increased chance of acquiring opportunistic infections, cancers, etc, and thus warrant appropriate therapy for viral suppression.

It was estimated, in 2011, that approximately 71,300 Canadians were living with HIV. HIV is a blood borne pathogen present in most bodily fluids (blood, semen, rectal fluid, vaginal fluid and breast milk) and can also be transmitted by sharing needles and syringes. Because of this large and growing population and the potentially fatal nature of this disease, it is important that different treatment options are available to increase productivity and improve quality of life.

HIV treatment includes NRTIs, NtRTIs, nNRTIs, PIs, integrase inhibitors, fusion inhibitors as well as entry inhibitors. Since, the current standard of care for HIV is combination therapy, these classes of drugs are commonly used together to optimize an individual’s treatment regimen. Currently, guidelines recommend a three-drug combination as the initial treatment regimen in Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) - naive patient’s:
- 2 NRTI’s, AND
- 1 NNRTI, OR Ritonavir boosted PI, OR Integrase Inhibitor

Although Prezista® is priced in-line with other PI and PI enhancer combinations (both as combination pills or separate), it has a specific approved indication that prevents its use in all HIV patients. Therefore, it is recommended that Prezista® be placed under Special Authorization for ClaimSecure groups that subscribe to the Managed Formulary, Specialty Drug, and Stop Loss Programs. The Special Authorization process seeks to ensure that Prezista® is used only in patients that do not have Prezista resistance-associated mutations and that there is opportunity to coordinate benefits with provincial public programs where possible. For Open Drug Formularies, Prezista® will be fully covered.
If you require additional information about Prezcobix®, please contact the Clinical Services Department, at (905) 949-2322 or 1-888-479-7587 ext. 2422.

Recommendation: Special Authorization

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

References: