**Recently Introduced Products**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Name</th>
<th>Indication</th>
<th>Potential Impact</th>
<th>Expected Avg. Cost Per Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ragwitek</td>
<td>For reducing the signs and symptoms of moderate to severe seasonal short ragweed pollen induced allergic rhinitis in adults who have responded inadequately or are intolerant to conventional drug therapies</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$532</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%*

**Constella® – A New Treatment Option for Chronic Constipation**

Constella® is indicated for two common, often recurrent conditions: irritable bowel syndrome with constipation (IBS-C) and chronic idiopathic constipation (CIC) with prevalence rates at 11.2% and 14% respectively. Patients with either of the two conditions present with very similar signs and symptoms (e.g. infrequent bowel movements, bloating, abdominal and rectal pain, etc.); however, for those with IBS-C, the level of discomfort is intensified, especially in terms of pain in the abdomen. However, regardless of the actual diagnosis, management of chronic constipation remains the same, which is to focus on reducing abdominal and bowel symptoms, normalizing defecation as well as improving quality of life.

Current treatment guidelines recommend an increase in fiber intake and exercise as the initial approach to managing chronic constipation. If more aggressive treatment is required, over-the-counter (OTC) products may be used. These include bulking agents (e.g. Metamucil®), stool softeners (e.g. Colace® or docusate), osmotic agents (e.g. Citro-Mag®, Milk of Magnesia®) and stimulants (i.e. bisacodyl, senna). For CIC specifically, prescription Resotran® is also available.

Constella® is a treatment option for both IBS-C and CIC, as per approved indications by Health Canada. It works via a new mechanism of action to increase fluid secretion in the intestines, thus, improving intestinal movement and symptoms of constipation. Compared to placebo, Constella® has demonstrated superior clinical effects for both conditions. Constella® offers once-daily dosing, which eases administration. It is intended for chronic use to allow for long-term alleviation of signs and symptoms relating to IBS-C and CIC.

Due to Constella®’s place in therapy, typically not 1st line treatment for chronic constipation, and the premium cost associated with this medication (approx. $1,300 to $2,600 annually), it is recommended that Constella® be placed under Special Authorization for ClaimSecure groups that subscribe to the Managed Formulary. The Special Authorization process seeks to ensure that Constella® is used only for members with IBS-C or CIC and who have tried and failed conventional therapies including diet and exercise changes, OTC products, etc. For ClaimSecure groups subscribing to Specialty Drug, and Stop Loss Programs and Open Drug Formularies, Constella® will be fully covered.

*If you require additional information about Constella®, please contact the Clinical Services Department, at (905) 949-3025 or 1-888-479-7587 ext. 3025.*

**Recommendation: Special Authorization**

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

**References:**