



MaxorPlus Clinical Newsletter

Dec. 2012-Jan. 2013

Now available

Eliquis® ([apixaban](#)) is an oral selective factor Xa inhibitor anticoagulant approved for the prevention of stroke and embolism in patients with atrial fibrillation. Not recommended for prosthetic heart valve patients. **Eliquis®** has a black box warning against abrupt discontinuation. Dosing is 5 mg twice daily.
AWP \$ 5.007/tablet or \$ 300.42/month

Linzess® ([linaclotide](#)) is indicated for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome with constipation. Dosing is 290 mcg orally once daily on an empty stomach, at least 30 minutes before the first meal of the day. It is also given for chronic idiopathic constipation at a dose of 145 mcg once daily.
AWP \$ 8.52/capsule either strength or \$ 255.60/month

Auvi-Q® ([epinephrine](#)) is indicated for severe life-threatening allergic reactions. **Auvi-Q®** should only be injected into the anterolateral aspect of the thigh. This medication comes in a package that talks to the patient. When the patient removes the safety cap, the device gives verbal directions on use.
AWP \$ 144.60/injection

Juxtapid® ([lomitapide mesylate](#)) is a microsomal triglyceride transfer protein. Indicated for patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia, a rare genetic disorder in which the body cannot remove LDL cholesterol from the blood. Dosing is started at 5 mg once daily at least 2 hours after the evening meal. Dose is titrated up to no more than 60 mg daily. **Juxtapid®** has a black box warning of potential hepatotoxicity and the FDA requires a REMS program with only certified prescribers and pharmacies.
AWP \$ 969.85/20 mg capsule or \$ \$ 29,095.50/month or \$ 349,146.00/year

Based on **Juxtapid's®** indication and cost, we recommend restricting to a specialty pharmacy.

Cometriq® (cabozantinib) is an oral multi-tyrosine kinase inhibitor. It is indicated for the treatment of progressive, metastatic medullary thyroid cancer. The list of precautions is long and extensive. Dosing is 140 mg orally once daily.

AWP \$ 11,880/monthly kit (contains 1-80 mg cap and 3-20 mg capsules/day)

Based on **Cometriq's®** indication and cost, we recommend restricting to a specialty pharmacy.

Iclusig® (ponatinib) is an oral multi-kinase inhibitor. It is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with chronic myeloid leukemia that is resistant or intolerant to prior tyrosine kinase inhibitor therapy. Dosing is 45 mg orally once daily.

AWP \$ 383.20/ 45 mg tablet or \$ \$ 11,496.00/month

Based on **Iclusig's®** indication and cost, we recommend restricting to a specialty pharmacy.

Xeljanz® (tofacitinib) is an oral janus kinase inhibitor. It is indicated for adults with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis. Do not use in combination with tumor necrosis factor medications. FDA recommends hemoglobin concentration and neutrophil counts checked prior to initiation and every 3 months thereafter. Dosing is 5 mg twice daily.

AWP \$ 41.102/ 5mg tablet or \$ 2,466.12/month

Based on **Xeljanz's®** indication and cost, we recommend restricting to a specialty pharmacy.

Synribo® (omacetazine mepesuccinate) is indicated for the treatment of chronic myeloid leukemia that is resistant and/or intolerant to 2 or more tyrosine kinase inhibitors. Dosing is 1.25 mg/m² subcutaneously twice daily for 14 days repeated every 28 days until response. Then dose reduction can occur.

AWP \$ 1002.00/ 3.5 mg vial or \$ 28,056.00/month

Based on **Synribo's®** indication and cost, we recommend restricting to a specialty pharmacy.

Vascepa® (icosapent ethyl) is an ethyl ester of the omega-3 fatty acid eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA). It is approved for adults as an adjunct to diet to reduce triglycerides concentrations of ≥ 500 mg/dl. Dosing is 2 capsules twice daily.

AWP \$ 1.84/1 Gm capsule or \$ 220.80/month

Oravig® (miconazole buccal) is an anti-fungal medication indicated for treatment of adults with candida infections inside the mouth (thrush). Dosing is one tablet dissolved in the mouth once daily for 14 days.

AWP \$ 21.77/ 50 mg tablet or \$ 304.78/ treatment

Absorica® ([isotretinoin](#)) is indicated for the treatment of adults and adolescents with severe recalcitrant cystic acne vulgaris (nodular acne). **Absorica®** is formulated using a patented Lidose technology and may be given without regard to meals. Manufacturer states that fasting AUC is greater than generic [isotretinoin](#) products and therefore is not interchangeable for generics. Dosing is 0.5-1 mg/kg/day given orally in 2 divided doses for no more than 20 weeks.

AWP \$ 26.336/20 mg capsule

Ilevro® ([nepafenac 0.3% ophthalmic suspension](#)) is indicated for the treatment of ocular pain and inflammation following cataract surgery. Dosing is 1 drop in affected eye once daily beginning prior to surgery and for first 2 weeks.

AWP \$ 173.40/ 1.7ml bottle

This drug is available under brand name **Nevanac®** in a 0.1% who's patent is said to be up in June 2014.

Quillivant® ([methylphenidate ER suspension](#)) is a once-daily extended release suspension. It is indicated for the treatment of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder. Dosing is daily.

AWP \$ 210.00/ 150 ml bottle of conc. 25 mg/5ml

Giazo® ([balsalazide](#)) is indicated exclusively for the treatment of mildly to moderately active ulcerative colitis in adult **males**. Effectiveness in female patients was not demonstrated in clinical trials. Dosing is 3.3 gm (3 of the 1.1 gm tablets) twice daily for up to 8 weeks.

AWP \$ 5.00/tablet or \$ 900.00/month

[Balsalazide](#) is available as a generic 750 mg capsule.

Ultresa® ([pancrelipase](#)) is indicated for the treatment of pancreatic insufficiency.

Dosing is individualized to patient's needs. As other pancrelipase products, **Ultresa®** is not interchangeable with other products in this class.

AWP \$ 2.952-5.364/ capsule based on strength

Oxtellar XR® ([oxcarbazepine](#)) is indicated for partial seizures. Dosing is once daily.

Usual adult dose is 1200-2400 daily.

AWP \$ 9.096/ 600 mg tablet or \$ 545.76/month

[Oxcarbazepine](#) is available in an immediate release generic tablet.

Onmel® ([itraconazole](#)) is indicated for treatment of various fungal infections. Dosing is based on microorganism and site of infection.

AWP \$ 34.286/ 200 mg tablet

[Itraconazole](#) is available as a 100 mg generic capsule.

New generics available:

- [tiagabine](#) generic for **Gabitril®** indicated for partial seizures
- [diclofenac w/ misoprostol](#) generic for **Arthrotec®** indicated for signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis in patients at high risk of developing NSAID-induced gastric and duodenal ulcers
- [sildenafil](#) generic for **Revatio®** indicated for pulmonary hypertension
- [cidofovir](#) generic for **Vistide®** indicated for cytomegalovirus infections
- [rizatriptan](#) generic for **Maxalt®** indicated for migraine headaches

New strength

Suboxone® ([buprenorphine/naloxone](#)) indicated for treatment of opiate agonist dependency is now available as a 12-3 mg tablet and a 4-1 mg tablet.

In Medical News

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced on January 10, 2013 it is requiring the manufacturers of **Ambien®**, **Ambien CR®**, **Edluar®** and **Zolpimist®**, widely used sleep drugs that contain the active ingredient [zolpidem](#), to lower current recommended doses. **Ambien®** and **Ambien CR®** are also available as generics. New data show that [zolpidem](#) blood levels in some patients may be high enough the morning after use to impair activities that require alertness, including driving.

Using lower doses of [zolpidem](#) means less of the drug will remain in the blood in the morning hours. Since women eliminate [zolpidem](#) from their bodies more slowly than men, the FDA has notified the manufacturers that the recommended dose should be lowered for women and that the labeling should recommend that health care professionals consider a lower dose for men. Data show the risk for next-morning impairment is highest for patients taking the extended-release forms of these drugs. The FDA urges health care professionals to caution all patients (men and women) who use these products about the risks of next-morning impairment for activities that require complete mental alertness, including driving.

The FDA has informed the manufacturers that the recommended dosage of [zolpidem](#) for women should be lowered from 10 milligrams (mg) to 5 mg for immediate-release products (**Ambien®**, **Edluar®**, and **Zolpimist®**) and from 12.5 mg to 6.25 mg for extended-release products (**Ambien CR®**). For men, the FDA has informed the manufacturers that the labeling should recommend that health care professionals consider prescribing these lower doses (5 mg for immediate-release products and 6.25 mg for extended-release products). These products are currently available on the market in both the higher and lower dosages.