



MaxorPlus Clinical Newsletter

February 2012

Now available

Erivedge® (vismodegib) is an oral hedgehog pathway inhibitor. It is the first FDA approved medication for the treatment of adults with advanced metastatic basal cell carcinoma (BCC) or in patients with locally advanced BCC that has recurred following surgery. Dosing is 150 mg daily. AWP \$ 321.43/ capsule or \$ 9,642.90/ month

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

Inlyta® (axitinib) is an oral agent that works by inhibiting receptor tyrosine kinases, including vascular endothelial growth factor receptors (VEGFR)-1, VEGFR-2, and VEGFR-3. It is approved for the treatment of advanced renal cell carcinoma (RCC) after failure of one prior systemic therapy. Starting dose is 5 mg twice daily with titration up to 10 mg twice daily. **Inlyta®** interacts with a long list of medications. Please review prior to dispensing. AWP \$ 176.40/ 5 mg tablet or \$ 10,584.00/ month

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

Jentaduetto® (linagliptin-metformin) is indicated for type II diabetes. Dosing is twice daily. **Linagliptin** is marketed as **Trajenta®** as a single agent. AWP \$ 4.26/ any strength tablet

Rectiv® (nitroglycerin rectal ointment 0.4%) indicated for the treatment of pain associated with anal fissures. Dosing is topically to the anal canal or directly to the outside of the anus every 12 hours. Treatment duration may extend for up to 3 weeks. AWP \$ 438.00/ 30 gm tube

Kalydeco® (ivacaftor) cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) potentiator. It is the first available agent that targets the defective CFTR protein. **Ivacaftor** is indicated for the treatment of cystic fibrosis (CF) in patients 6 years of age and older who have a *G551D* mutation in the *CFTR* gene. It is estimated that **only 4%** of the cystic fibrosis patients have this gene mutation. Dosing is 150 mg PO every 12 hours with fat-containing food. AWP \$ 490.00/ 150 mg tablet or \$ 29,400.00/ month or **\$ 352,800.00/ year**

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

Janumet XR® (sitagliptin-metformin SR) is a combination product containing an oral biguanide antidiabetic agent and a dipeptidyl-peptidase-IV (DPP-IV) inhibitor. Used for diabetes. Dosing is once daily. AWP \$ 4.26/ 50-500mg tablet or \$ 8.53/ 100-1000mg tablet

Oxecta® (oxycodone- abuse deterrent) is indicated for acute or chronic, moderate to severe pain. This new drug uses "Aversion" technology, licensed from Acura Pharmaceuticals -- which is described as a "unique composition of commonly used pharmaceutical ingredients" -- to stop potential abusers from crushing, chewing, snorting, or injecting the opioid. It does not deter oral abuse. Pfizer, one of the manufacturer's, released a statement that the drug will crumble in chunks instead of a powder if crushed and it turns "sudsy" if mixed with liquid and drawn in to a syringe. AWP \$ 3.20/ 5 mg tablet

Bydureon® (exenatide extended release injection) is in a class of agents called incretin mimetics. **Bydureon®** is an extended-release formulation of **exenatide (Byetta®)** which is administered once weekly. This formulation should not be used with **insulin** as this combination has not been studied. AWP \$ 97.03/ syringe or \$ 388.12/ month as compared to **Byetta®** 10 mcg monthly cost of \$ 350.28

Picato® (ingenol mebutate gel) is indicated for the topical treatment of actinic keratosis. **Picato®** gel is applied once daily for three consecutive days (0.015%) or two consecutive days (0.05%). AWP \$ 708.00/ 3 doses 0.015% or \$ 708.00/ 2 doses 0.05%

Suprenza® (phentermine oral disintegrating tablet) is indicated for short-term treatment of obesity, used as an adjunct to behavior modifications including dietary modification and appropriate exercise. Dosing is daily. AWP \$ 1.80/ 15 mg tablet or \$ 2.70/ 30 mg tablet
Note that **phentermine** is available as a generic.

New generics available:

[Hecoria](#) (branded generic for [tacrolimus](#)) used for treatment or prophylaxis of transplant rejection

In Medical News

Pa. Vending Machine Dispenses 'Morning-After' Pill

Students at Shippensburg University in central Pennsylvania can get the "morning-after" pill by sliding \$25 into a vending machine installed at the request of the student government.

The Etter Health Center at Shippensburg, a public school of 8,300 students in Appalachia's scenic Cumberland Valley, provides the Plan B One Step emergency contraceptive along with condoms, decongestants and pregnancy tests.

The pill is available without a prescription to anyone 17 or older, and the school checked records and found that all current students are that age or older, spokesman Peter Gigliotti said.

The machine was installed after a request from the student association. The pill's availability in a vending machine appears to be rare, if not unprecedented.

The idea started when Shippensburg conducted a survey about health center services several years ago, and 85 percent of the respondents supported making Plan B available, he said. "The machine is in a private room in our health center, and the health center is only accessible by students," Gigliotti said in a statement. "In addition, no one can walk in off the street and go into the health center. Students proceed to a check-in desk located in the lobby and after checking in are granted access to the treatment area."

Taking Plan B within 72 hours of rape, condom failure or just forgetting regular contraception can cut the chances of pregnancy by up to 89 percent. It works best if taken within 24 hours. Some religious conservatives consider the emergency contraceptive tantamount to an abortion drug. The drug isn't covered or subsidized by the school. Its price at the vending machine is set by the school's cost to the pharmaceutical company and is less than at off-campus pharmacies.

AP.org 2.7.2012

Spinbrush Powered Toothbrush by Arm and Hammer or Crest: Safety Communication - Choking Hazard and Serious Injuries

The FDA notified parents, caregivers, consumers, and dental care professionals about reports of serious injuries and potential hazards associated with the use of all models of the **Spinbrush**. These reports indicated that while turned on, the brush head has either “popped off” or broken off in the user’s mouth or near the face, causing cuts to the mouth and gums, chipped or broken teeth, swallowing and choking on the broken pieces, and injuries to the face and eyes. When the unexpected release of any part of the powered toothbrush occurs, there is a potential for serious injury. This risk is higher for unattended children or adults who may need assistance while using this device.

The FDA recommends that consumers:

- Inspect the **Spinbrush** for any damage or loose brush bristles prior to using. If you notice any damage or loose brush bristles, **DO NOT USE**.
- Check to be sure that the headpiece is connected properly to the handle of the brush and test your brush outside of the mouth prior to using. If you notice the connection feels loose or the headpiece easily detaches from the handle, **DO NOT USE**.
- Supervise children and adults who need assistance when using the Spinbrush.
- Do not bite down on the brush head while brushing.

See the FDA Safety Communication for FDA/manufacture recommendations and product photos.

FDA website 2/16/12