



MaxorPlus Clinical Newsletter

February 2013

Now available

Uceris® (budesonide SR) is a corticosteroid that is administered orally to manage symptoms associated with inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis) by inducing remission in patients with active disease. Dosing is one 9 mg SR tablet once daily in the morning for up to 8 weeks.

AWP \$ 49.40/tablet or or \$ 1,482.00/ month

Budesonide is available as a generic 3 mg enteric coated capsule.

Gel-One® (cross-linked hyaluronate) indicated for treatment of osteoarthritis of the knee that does not respond to other conservative treatments. It is being marketed as the first "low-volume viscosupplement available in a single injection". It's volume is 3 ml where **Synvisc-One®** is 6 ml.

AWP \$ 1,170.00/ 3 ml injection

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

Gattex® (teduglutide) is a recombinant glucagon-like peptide-2 (GLP-2) analog approved to treat adults with intestinal failure secondary to short bowel syndrome (SBS) who are dependent on parenteral nutrition. **Teduglutide** improves bowel function by enhancing absorption of nutrients and fluids, and decreases dependence on parenteral nutrition. Dosing is 0.05 mg/kg/day SQ once daily.

AWP \$ 29,096.00/ 5 mg kit which is one month supply or \$ 349,152.00/year

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

Nesina® ([alogliptin](#)) is a dipeptidyl-peptidase-IV (DDP-IV) inhibitor for the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus either as monotherapy or in combination with other antidiabetic agents. It joins Januvia®, Onglyza® and Tradjenta® in this class. Dosing is one tablet daily.
AWP \$ 9.84/ tablet or \$ 295.20/month

Oseni® ([alogliptin/pioglitazone](#)) is the combination of [alogliptin](#) mentioned above and [pioglitazone](#) , a biguanide. The combination is not considered a first-line treatment for type 2 diabetes mellitus. Dosing is one tablet daily.
AWP \$ 9.84/ tablet for the 12.5-45 mg strength or \$ 295.20/month

Kazano® ([alogliptin/metformin](#)) is the combination of [alogliptin](#) mentioned above and [metformin](#) , a thiazolidinedione. Dosing is one tablet twice daily.
AWP \$ 4.92/ 12.5-500 mg strength or \$ 295.20/month

Rescula® ([unoprostone isopropyl](#)) is a synthetic analog of prostaglandin F₂ alpha similar to [latanoprost](#). It is a prodrug used to reduce intraocular pressure in patients with glaucoma or ocular hypertension. Dosing is 1 drop in affected eye twice daily.
AWP \$ 118.80/ 5 ml bottle

Delzicol® ([mesalamine](#)) is an anti-inflammatory agent indicated in treating ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease. Dosing is 2 capsules twice daily.
AWP \$ 2.523/capsule or \$ 302.76/month

Pomalyst® ([pomalidomide](#)) is a structural analog of [thalidomide](#) and the third FDA-approved agent in the immunomodulatory derivative (IMiD) class of drugs. It is approved for the treatment of multiple myeloma in patients who have received at least 2 prior therapies, including **Revlimid®** ([lenalidomide](#)) and **Velcade®** ([bortezomib](#)), and have demonstrated disease progression on or within 60 days of completion of the last therapy. Dosing is 4 mg capsule once daily for days 1-21 of 28 day cycle.
AWP \$ 596.88/ capsule or \$ 12,534.48/month

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

New generics available:

- [desloratadine odt](#) generic for **Clarinet RDT®** indicated for symptoms of seasonal allergies
- [lamotrigine ER](#) generic for **Lamictal XR®** indicated for seizures
- [mupirocin cream](#) generic for **Bactoban® cream** indicated for impetigo and other skin infections
- [clobetasol aerosol](#) generic for **Olux- E®** indicated for pruritus or dermatitis

In Medical News

Synthetic MARIJUANA Linked to Kidney Damage

Kidney damage is now among the growing list of serious health effects associated with using synthetic marijuana.

Also known as Spice, Spice Gold, and K2, synthetic marijuana has been marketed as various herbal mixtures and sold as incense, bath additives, and air fresheners. They contain synthetic cannabinoid, which mimics the effects of the natural ingredient in marijuana that causes a high.

These products have also been linked to birth defects, changes in behavior, chest pain, and heart attack.

A study at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, involved four previously healthy young men who developed short-term kidney damage, called acute kidney injury. All had used synthetic marijuana. Three of the men also had an abnormally small amount of urine, and the fourth had a decrease in blood flow to the kidney. Three underwent a test that showed a condition called acute tubular necrosis. Left untreated, this can cause the kidneys to shut down. All four recovered their kidney function, and none required dialysis.

In the study, researchers note a "dramatic increase" in the use of synthetic marijuana products in the past five years. The relatively low cost (\$20 per gram) and the fact that they don't show up on routine drug tests are cited as the main reasons for their growing popularity.

The researchers also note that use is growing despite laws banning these products in about 40 states. "This is partly because new synthetic preparations that are not covered by legislation continue to be made and are available on the streets sometimes days after the legislation against prior preparations is introduced," the researchers write.

Synthetic marijuana is typically smoked, but it can also be inhaled and ingested.

The products often include several additives. The researchers write that it is likely that an additive, rather than the synthetic cannabinoid, caused the acute kidney injury.

The study will be published in the March issue of the *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*.

Medscape Medical News Feb 13,2013