



MaxorPlus Clinical Newsletter

November- December 2011

Now available

Eylea® (afibercept) is an intravitreal injection indicated for the treatment of patients with neovascular (wet) age related macular degeneration. The recommended dosing is 2 mg every 4 weeks for first 3 months, then 2mg every 2 months.

AWP \$ 2220/ 2mg dose

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

Jakafi® (ruxolitinib) is a kinase inhibitor indicated for intermediate- or high-risk myelofibrosis. Myelofibrosis is a disorder of the bone marrow, in which the marrow is replaced by scar (fibrous) tissue. Starting dose is 20 mg twice daily.

AWP \$ 140.00/20 mg tablet Monthly cost \$ \$8,400.00

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

Lorzone® (chlorzoxazone) is a centrally acting, skeletal muscle-relaxing agent with sedative properties. Indicated for acute, painful musculoskeletal conditions. Dosing is 3-4 times a day for severe spasms. Generic chorzoxazone is available.

AWP \$ 2.61/ 375 mg or \$ 2.81/ 750 mg

Exparel® (buprivacaine liposome) an injectable suspension, is an amide local anesthetic approved for single-dose administration into the surgical site to produce postsurgical analgesia.

AWP \$ 340.00/ injection

Ferriprox® ([deferiprone](#)) is an iron chelator approved for the treatment of transfusional iron overload due to thalassemia syndromes when current chelation therapy is inadequate. Iron overload is a serious complication caused by frequent blood transfusions in patients with blood transfusion-dependent anemia. Dosing 25 mg/kg by mouth three times daily for a total of 75 mg/kg/day. Monitor serum ferritin concentration every 2—3 months. AWP \$38.00/500 mg tablet Average monthly \$ \$9,120.00

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

Onfi® ([clobazam](#)) is a benzodiazepine derivative anticonvulsant medication. Similar to other benzodiazepines, [clobazam](#) has the potential for psychological and physical dependence and is classified as a schedule IV controlled substance. As with many antiepileptic drugs (AEDs), the drug will require a MedGuide with each prescription and refill. Dosing is titrated up to 20 mg twice daily.

AWP \$ 15.00/tablet Monthly \$ 900.00

New generics available:

[atorvastatin](#) generic for **Liptior®** used to treat high cholesterol

[olanzapine](#) generic for **Zyprexa®** used to treat schizophrenia

Safety information

Trilipix® ([fenofibric acid](#)): Drug Safety Communication - Label Change

The FDA notified healthcare professionals the cholesterol-lowering medicine **Trilipix®** ([fenofibric acid](#)) may **not** lower a patient's risk of having a heart attack or stroke. FDA reviewed the data from the Action to Control Cardiovascular Risk in Diabetes (ACCORD) Lipid trial. The ACCORD Lipid trial found no significant difference in the risk of experiencing a major adverse cardiac event between the group treated with [fenofibrate](#) plus [simvastatin](#) compared with [simvastatin](#) alone.

Information from the trial has been added to the **Important Limitations of Use** and Warnings and Precautions sections of the **Trilipix®** physician label and to the patient Medication Guide. Healthcare professionals should consider the benefits and risks of Trilipix when deciding to prescribe the drug to patients, and counsel patients about those benefits and risks.

FDA medwatch website 11.9.11

New indication

Isentress® ([raltegravir](#)) is an antiretroviral drugs for the treatment of HIV-1. The FDA has now approved use in children and adolescents ages 2-18.

FDA website 12.22.11

In Medical News

DEA Places [carisoprodol](#) in Schedule IV

The US Drug Enforcement Administration has issued a final rule to place [carisoprodol](#) (**Soma®**) into Schedule IV of the Controlled Substance Act effective January 11, 2012. Thereafter, any person who engages in the manufacture, distribution, dispensing, importing, exporting, as well as any person who possesses the drug will be subject to the provisions of the Act and DEA regulations, including the Act's administrative, civil, and criminal sanctions which are applicable to schedule IV controlled substances.

It is noteworthy that at its annual meeting in October NASCSA members voted unanimously to support a resolution that [carisoprodol](#) be placed into Schedule IV.

Plan B® One-Step to remain behind pharmacy counter

U.S. drug regulators kept the controversial morning-after pill behind the pharmacy counter, denying the drugmaker's request to drop the age limit on who can buy the emergency contraceptive without a prescription.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius directed the Food and Drug Administration to keep the prescription requirement for girls younger than 17.

The pill, which has to be taken within 72 hours of unprotected sexual intercourse, has technically been an over-the-counter drug, but only for women over 17. With younger girls requiring a prescription, buying **Plan B®** has required showing the pharmacist identification for an age check.

Teva has maintained that having wider access was not intended to sell **Plan B®** to teenage girls, but to allow the company's target audience of women aged 18 to 49 to be able to buy the pill without an uncomfortable ID check, and at any time.