



MaxorPlus Clinical Newsletter

September- October 2011

Now available

Juvisync® ([simvastatin/sitagliptan](#)) is a combination of a cholesterol lowering agent with an oral hypoglycemic agent used to treat diabetes. Dosing is one tablet daily in the evening. Simvastatin is available as a generic.
AWP \$ 8.12/tablet any strength

Anascorp® ([centruroides sculpturatus antivenin \(scorpion antivenin\)](#)) used for the treatment of a scorpion sting in patients with clinically significant signs of envenomation. Dose is 3 vials diluted and given over 10 minutes IV. Repeat dosing may be needed.
AWP \$4375.00/ vial \$13,125.00/ first dose

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

Aridol Kit® ([mannitol inhalation powder](#)). The **Aridol®** Bronchial Challenge Test requires patients to inhale, from a hand-held device, increasing doses of dry powder [mannitol](#), which causes airways to narrow and contract when airway inflammation is present. The doses are contained in capsules that are administered at one-minute intervals until a positive response is achieved or until all the capsules have been inhaled, indicating a negative result. The **Aridol®** test takes approximately 20 minutes to administer and requires a 15% reduction in FEV1 from baseline for a positive test. **Aridol®** should not be used as a stand-alone test to assess asthma or as a screening test for asthma, but as part of a physician's overall assessment of asthma. AWP \$ 84.00/ kit

Cleviprex® ([clevipidine butyrate IV emulsion](#)) is a short acting calcium channel blocker used for the treatment of hypertension. Dosing is adjusted to reach blood pressure goals. Average dose 4-6 mg/hour IV. AWP \$ 204.00/50 mg vial

Duexis® ([ibuprofen/famotidine](#)) is a fixed dose non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent with a H2-receptor antagonist that is indicated for the relief of signs and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis and decrease the risk of developing upper GI ulcers. Both ibuprofen and famotidine are available as generics.
AWP \$ 1.86/tablet \$ 55.80/ month

Lazanda® ([fentanyl nasal spray](#)) is indicated for the management of severe pain in patient with cancer who are already receiving and are tolerant to opioid therapy. Dosing is one spray (100 mcg) in one nostril up to 4 times a day.
AWP \$ 336/ spray bottle which contains 8 doses or 2 days of therapy.
AWP \$ 5,040/ month

Firazyr® ([icatibant](#)) indicated to treat acute attacks of hereditary angioedema (HAE). HAE is a rare genetic syndrome that causes edema or swelling in the upper airways, face, or extremities. If the attack involves the larynx, it could be life-threatening. **Firazyr®** is administered SQ up to 3 doses in 24 hours.
AWP \$ 8,160.00/vial \$ 24,480.00/ treatment

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

Xalkori® ([crizotinib](#)) is indicated for treatment of locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer that is anaplastic lymphoma kinase positive as detected by a lab test. Dosing is 250 mg twice daily.
AWP \$ 191.00/capsule or \$ 11,460.00/ month

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

Conzip® ([tramadol 24 hr capsule](#)) is indicated for treatment of pain. Dosing is once per day. [Tramadol](#) and [tramadol SR](#) are available as generics.
AWP \$ 5.32/ 100 mg capsule or \$ 8.84/ 300 mg capsule

Nucynta ER® ([tapentadol ER](#)) is indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe pain. Initial dose is 50 mg twice daily. Classified as a C-II medication.
AWP \$ 2.92/ 50 mg ER tablet \$ 175.20/month

Zelboraf® ([vemurafenib](#)) is indicated to treat metastatic malignant melanoma in patient with V600E mutation of the BRAF gene as detected by a lab test. Dosing is 4 tablets twice daily.
AWP \$ 47.00/tablet \$ 11,280.00/ month

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

Adcetris® ([brentuximab vedotin](#)) used to treat Hodgkin's disease after failure of stem cell transplant or after failure of 2 prior chemotherapies. Dosing is IV every 3 weeks for up to 16 cycles.
AWP \$ 5,400.00/vial

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

Bromday® ([bromfenac](#)) ophthalmic drop indicated for treatment of postoperative ocular inflammation and ocular pain following cataract surgery. Dosing is once daily for 14 days. There is a generic [bromfenac](#) ophthalmic drop available but it is dosed twice daily.

AWP \$ 168.74/ bottle

Gralise® ([gabapentin ER](#)) indicated for neuropathic pain associated with postherpetic neuralgia. Gabapentin immediate release is available as a generic. Dosing is once daily with evening meal.

AWP \$ 2.25/tablet

New generics available:

[atrovaquone/proguanil](#) generic for **Malarone®** used to treat malaria

New indication

FDA approves **Cialis®** to treat benign prostatic hyperplasia

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved **Cialis®** ([tadalafil](#)) to treat the signs and symptoms of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), a condition in which the prostate gland becomes enlarged, and for the treatment of BPH and erectile dysfunction (ED), when the conditions occur simultaneously. **Cialis®** was approved in 2003 for the treatment of ED.

In a study, men who experienced both ED and BPH and who took 5 mg of **Cialis®** once daily had improvement in both their symptoms of BPH and in their ED compared to men who were treated with placebo.

FDA approves **Remicade®** to treat children with ulcerative colitis

Remicade® ([infliximab](#)), a drug used for the treatment of moderate to severe active ulcerative colitis, has been approved by the FDA for use in children aged 6 years or older who had failed to respond or could not tolerate conventional therapy.

Children should have all vaccines updated before commencing treatment with **Remicade®** and it should not be administered to children receiving live vaccines. **Remicade's** most common side effects include worsening of the ulcerative colitis, upper respiratory infections, infusion-related reactions, and headache.

Safety information

Reclast® (zoledronic acid): Drug Safety Communication - New Contraindication and Updated Warning on Kidney Impairment

FDA notified healthcare professionals and patients of an update to the drug label for **Reclast® (zoledronic acid)** regarding the risk of kidney failure. Cases of acute renal failure requiring dialysis or having a fatal outcome following **Reclast®** use have been reported to FDA. The revised label states that **Reclast®** is contraindicated in patients with creatinine clearance less than 35 mL/min or in patients with evidence of acute renal impairment. The label also recommends that healthcare professionals screen patients prior to administering **Reclast®** in order to identify at-risk patients.

The **Reclast®** Medication Guide for patients is being updated to contain information about the risk of severe kidney problems. In addition, the manufacturer of Reclast will issue a Dear Healthcare Provider letter to inform healthcare professionals about this risk. FDA medwatch 9/1/11

In Medical News

FDA approves gel to stop blood flow during blood vessel surgery

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved **LeGoo®**, a gel that allows surgeons to temporarily stop blood flow during surgery so that they can join blood vessels without clamps or elastic loops.

To join blood vessels during surgery, it is necessary to temporarily stop blood flow to the area where a new vessel is being attached. Stopping blood flow prevents flooding the surgical area with blood, which makes it difficult for the surgeon to clearly see where to place sutures to connect the two vessels.

LeGoo® has been shown to minimize blood flow into the surgical area without damaging blood vessels. Standard tools, such as elastic loops and clamps, do not always allow for a bloodless surgical area and may damage vessels.

LeGoo® is a temperature sensitive gel that is liquid at room temperature and solid at higher temperatures. When injected into a blood vessel, **LeGoo®** forms a gel plug that molds to the shape of the blood vessel and stops blood flow for up to 15 minutes.

After the blood vessels are joined, the plug is expected to dissolve on its own in 15 minutes. In the event the plug needs to dissolve sooner, the surgeon can dissolve the gel plug by applying a cold pack or cold saline to the blood vessel.