MC-Rx

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Volume 2020#03

Prepared for 02/10/2020

Drug Information Updates

Audenz Flu Vaccine Approved — 01/31/2020

The FDA approved Audenz™ (influenza A [H5N1] monovalent vaccine, adjuvanted – Seqirus) as part of the U.S. National Pandemic Influenza Strategy. Indicated to prevent flu caused by the H5N1 (avian flu) strain of influenza A, it is approved for individuals who are at least six (6) months old. Audenz, which uses cell-based technology allowing for rapid production, includes an adjuvant (enhancer) that boosts the body's immune system and allows for a smaller dose of the flu antigen to promote an effective response. Audenz is not intended for retail sales it will be packaged in single-use, prefilled syringes given as two intramuscular (IM) injections three weeks apart.

Formulary Status: No formulary status at current due to restricted sales

Reyvow Launched — 01/31/2020

After receiving a C-5 controlled substance designation, Eli Lilly launched Reyvow™ (lasmiditan) tablets which was approved in October, 2019. Reyvow is the first in a new class of oral drugs that are indicated for treatment of adults who have acute migraines. Recommended dosing for Reyvow is 50mg, 100mg or 200mg taken once a migraine has started. No more than one dose should be taken per day and no safety information is available for using more than four doses in a one-month period. Because it may cause sleepiness, patients are advised to wait at least eight (8) hours after taking it before driving or doing other tasks that require mental alertness. Reyvow is marketed in packages of eight (8) tablets.

Formulary Status: Reyvow is a tier 3 non-preferred brand with step edits for use of generic triptans first.

Updated Label for Belsomra — 01/29/2020

Merck was granted approval from the FDA to make changes on the labeling of its Belsomra® (suvorexant). Originally FDA approved in 2014 to treat adults who have insomnia, Belsomra is undergoing additional trials for other uses. After promising results were reported from a phase III study of patients who have both insomnia and Alzheimer's disease, the FDA is allowing data from the study to be included on the label. Although it not yet approved for a new indication, the clinical trials may provide information about using Belsomra to treat insomnia for patients who also have mild or moderate Alzheimer's. While the recommended dose is 10mg daily taken about one-half hour before bedtime, over 75% of patients taking Belsomra needed a 20mg dose in the trial.

Formulary Status: Belsomra is a tier 3 non-preferred brand with step edits for use of generics first.

IMPENDING FDA REVIEWS SCHEDULED FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS:

None

GENERAL INFORMATION:

More information will be provided as it becomes available. Visit FDA.gov for more information.