

# MC-Rx

Powered by ProCare Rx

Current News: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

## CORONAVIRUS

Click on the Link above for Important Information

# Drug Update

Volume 2020 #09

Prepared for 03/23/2020



## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

To Our Valued Clients,

We at MC-Rx & ProCare Rx are writing to confirm to you that we are prepared and working through the national Coronavirus crisis. To protect our employees and help ensure no disruption to you, our clients, we have implemented “social distance” best practices, including a ban on commercial travel, cancellation of trade shows, and minimum necessary staffing structure for our offices with all other staff working remotely. Neither your system access or services will be disrupted by COVID 19 issues; however, you may need to use email to contact your normal Account Management team member.

Your employees and members are likewise of paramount importance, so our Customer Service team is also fully prepared to continue business as usual throughout this national emergency. We will support clients who wish to enact emergency procedures for prescriptions by allowing early refills of maintenance medications or other changes in your plan design rules.

While we are not aware as to whether your members’ local pharmacies will charge for shipping and delivery, in the event that your members are unable to travel to get their prescription medications, ProCare PharmacyCare is available to most of our clients and provides mail service prescriptions, allowing your employees/members to eliminate a trip to the pharmacy. During these times, we can make 30-day prescriptions available at the 30-day retail price via ProCare PharmacyCare in addition to the normal 90-day supply coverage. Standard shipping via US mail is included at no charge. If you desire to make this service available to your employees, please work with your Account Manager to set it up; we can forward a link that you can distribute to your members to have their local prescriptions transferred to ProCare PharmacyCare for home delivery.

To summarize:

- Your employees/members will continue to have access to all approved services.
- ProCare Rx’s System and your data will be accessible to you and your authorized employees as usual.
- Our client support staff and clinical pharmacists will remain available for phone calls and emails from 9 AM to 6 PM Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.
- Our Pharmacy Support Center will remain available 24/7, and can assist in finding available medications, if shortages occur.
- Our wholly owned and managed data centers, all of which can be remotely administered by our IT Staff, will continue to operate without interruption.

Again, ProCare Rx and MC-Rx are here to support you during these difficult times, and we will work even harder to earn your confidence as well as keep you informed of any changes. As always, we deeply value your business and if you have any questions, please reach out to your account manager, and he/she will coordinate a timely response.

The Management Team

MC-Rx, ProCare Rx, MC-21, BIS

# Drug Information Updates

## Additional Herceptin Biosimilar Available

03/16/2020

Teva Pharmaceuticals and Celltrion Healthcare recently launched Herzuma® (trastuzumab-pkrb), their biosimilar to Herceptin® (trastuzumab – Genentech). Like Herceptin, Herzuma is indicated to treat breast cancers and metastatic stomach cancers (gastric or gastroesophageal junction adenocarcinomas) that overexpress the HER2 gene (HER2+). It is given as an intravenous (IV) infusion at varying loading/maintenance doses and on schedules that also vary according to the cancer being treated. All trastuzumab biosimilar products have boxed warnings that they may cause birth defects, heart failure, respiratory distress or severe allergic reactions, and none can be substituted for Herceptin or for each other.

*Formulary Status:* Herzuma (and Herceptin products) are medical drugs due to IV administration and are not covered

## Pediatric Indication for Epclusa

03/19/2020

Epclusa® (sofosbuvir/velpatasvir - Gilead) tablets was FDA approved on March 19, 2020, for treatment of children who are at least six years old or who weigh at least 17kg (about 37 pounds). First approved for adults in June 2016, it has a 12-week recommended course to treat all six known genotypes of hepatitis C. Gilead estimates that up to 46,000 children could be candidates for its use. Pediatric dosing depends on the child's weight with those weighing under 30kg taking one tablet containing sofosbuvir 200mg/velpatasvir 50mg per day and those weighing 30kg or more taking the adult dose of sofosbuvir 400mg/ velpatisvir 100mg per day. Children who have severe cirrhosis will need to take ribavirin, as well, also adjusted for weight. A boxed warning cautions that using Epclusa could activate hepatitis B virus (HBV) for patients who have or who have had HBV. Patients should be tested for HBV before, during and for several months after treatment.

*Formulary Status:* Epclusa is a tier 3 non-preferred brand on the specialty formulary

## SPECIAL MEDICAL DRUG ALERT



The FDA is requiring label changes for all drugs listed below that contain a sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 (SGLT2) inhibitor. Patients who take SGLT2 drugs should stop taking them *before having major surgery* because the risk of ketoacidosis, a potentially life-threatening accumulation of acids and other chemicals in the blood, may be increased. Patients will need to have alternate treatment to control blood sugar from the time that the SGLT2 inhibitor is discontinued until their food consumption is back to normal after the surgery.

- AstraZeneca's Farxiga®, Qtern® and Xigduo™ XR
- Eli Lilly's Jardiance®, Glyxambi®, Synjardy®, Synjardy® XR and Trijardy™
- Janssen's Invokana®, Invokamet® and Invokamet XR®
- Merck's Steglatro™, Segluromet™ and Steglujan™

Merck's products should be stopped 4 days prior to surgery, while the others should be stopped 3 days before.

## IMPENDING FDA REVIEWS SCHEDULED FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS:

03/25 – Ozanimod (Bristol Myers Squibb): A sphingosine 1-phosphate (S1P) receptor modulator for the treatment of relapsing multiple sclerosis (MS); oral therapy.

03/26 – Rizaport® VersaFilm® (rizatriptan oral thin-film – IntelGenx): A new formulation of rizatriptan for the treatment of migraine headaches; Oral therapy.

03/28 – Triferic® (ferric pyrophosphate citrate – Rockwell Medical): A new intravenous formulation of iron for the treatment of adults who have chronic kidney disease and who require iron replacement and hemoglobin maintenance in hemodialysis; IV therapy.

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

For more information, please either visit [FDA.gov](http://FDA.gov) or contact your account manager.