

The Weekly Mortar & Pestle

A Publication of Walgreens Health Initiatives



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A publication created especially for our clients and associates, delivering up-to-date information about brand-name and generic medication, medical products, and other pharmaceutical-related information collected from key government and industry sources.

Other Changes to the PML

Brand Name	Generic Name	Therapeutic Class	Indications	Date Approved	Description of Change
Latisse™ ophthalmic solution	bimatoprost	Ophthalmic agents	Treatment of hypotrichosis (reduced amount of hair) of eyelashes	12/24/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latisse was added to the Pigmenting/De-Pigmenting Agents Coverage/Exclusion list. • Bimatoprost is also currently approved as Lumigan® for the treatment of glaucoma.

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Formulary and P&T Committee News Summary

P&T Meeting 01/12/09	Agenda Items	Committee Decisions
MUE	December MUE Subcommittee meeting minutes	Minutes approved with no changes.
Medication Management	Revised Migraine CPA	Revised clinical criteria approved with no changes with further review by Managed Care sales and FST.
MedMonitor [®] Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient education handouts for glaucoma, Parkinson's disease and anticoagulation • November and December 2008 MedMonitor[®] Complete subcommittee meeting minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient education handouts approved with recommended changes. • Meeting minutes approved with no changes.
Specialty Development	Tracleer [®] question sets	Question sets approved with recommended changes.

Recent Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warnings and health news for patients and healthcare professionals

(Updates to previously printed news are noted in blue.)

Drug/Issue	Date	News Event(s)	Member/Client Impact	Strategic Rationale	Action Needed to Implement
Nitroglycerin sublingual (SL) tablets, marketed as NitroQuick[®] tablets/Ethex and Nitrostat[®] tablets/Pfizer Issue: Drug shortage	02/06/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethex has all presentations of NitroQuick tablets on backorder with no estimated release date. • Ethex recalled multiple generic products starting in December 2008 due to manufacturing problems. • Pfizer and Glenmark are experiencing supply and demand issues due to the recall by Ethex. • Pfizer has all of their Nitrostat sublingual tablets on allocation. • Glenmark has all presentations 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate utilization • Supply is expected to meet demand. 	Communication to clients via <i>Weekly M&P</i> newsletter.

CPA = Clinical Prior Authorization
SPA = Specialty Prior Authorization

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		of their nitroglycerin SL tablets on backorder with an estimated mid-February release.			

New Products*

Drug/Manufacturer	Therapeutic Class	Indication(s)	Date	Projected Launch	Comments	Programs Planned
New FDA-Approved Agents						
ATryn [®] (antithrombin [recombinant]) injection/GTC Biotherapeutics	Specialty pharmacy agent	Treatment of hereditary antithrombin deficiency	02/06/09	Unknown	ATryn prevents life-threatening blood clots in patients with antithrombin deficiency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P&T review planned. • MedMonitor[®] Complete will create conflict edits as needed.
New Dosage Forms and Combinations						
<i>None to report</i>						
New FDA-Approved Indications						
<i>None to report</i>						
New First-Time Generic Drug Approvals						
Minocycline extended-release tablets/IMPAX	Oral acne agent	Treatment of moderate to severe acne	02/03/09	Unknown	AB-rated generic of Solodyn [®] by Medicis	Will be added to lowest copay tier when available.

* Note: If FDA-approved, agents are under P&T review and reside on the 3rd tier.

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Pipeline Analysis

Drug/Manufacturer	Therapeutic Class	Indication(s)	Status	Comments
Fampridine-SR (4-aminopyridine) sustained-release tablets/Acorda	Central nervous system agent	Treatment to improve walking in patients with multiple sclerosis	New drug application (NDA) submitted.	Fampridine can improve the communication between damaged nerves, which may result in increased neurological function.
Invega [®] (paliperidone palmitate) injection/Janssen	Antipsychotic agent	Treatment of schizophrenia	Johnson & Johnson submitted its response to the FDA's complete response letter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly intramuscular injection • Oral Invega is currently available.
ROX-888 (ketorolac) intranasal/Roxro	Non-narcotic analgesic agent	Management of acute moderate to severe pain	NDA accepted.	Intranasal nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agent
First-Time Generic Drugs in the Pipeline				
<i>None to report</i>				

Information for *The Weekly Mortar & Pestle* is compiled by Walgreens Clinical Information Services and obtained from the following sources (with secondary-source links provided):

Food and Drug Administration (www.fda.gov)

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists[®] (www.ashp.org)

P&T Community (www.ptcommunity.com)

Pharmaceutical News Harvest[™] (www.internetdrugnews.com)

Drugs.com[™] (www.drugs.com)

Pharmacy OneSource[®] (www.pharmacyonesource.com)

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