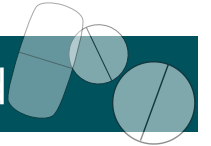


Rx Inform

Bringing You Key Issues in Prescription Benefits Administration

IN THIS ISSUE:

Zelnorm and Pergolide Sales Suspended



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Zelnorm

Effective immediately, Novartis is suspending sales of Zelnorm (tegaserod maleate) tablets in the U.S. market. Pharmacies will no longer be able to dispense Zelnorm.

According to the Public Health Advisory issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), "Zelnorm is being taken off the market because a new safety analysis has found a higher chance of heart attack, stroke, and worsening heart chest pain that can become a heart attack in patients treated with Zelnorm compared to those treated with a sugar pill they thought was Zelnorm."

Innoviant will not process Zelnorm claims and asks members to consult with their physicians regarding alternative medications.

The FDA recommends patients who are currently taking Zelnorm should seek emergency medical care right away if they experience severe chest pain, shortness of breath, dizziness, sudden onset of weakness or difficulty walking or talking or other symptoms of a heart attack or stroke. The complete FDA Public Health Advisory is published to inform patients of this action. A copy of this advisory is available online at <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/advisory/tegaserod.htm>

Zelnorm is a prescription medication used for the short-term treatment of irritable bowel syndrome with constipation in women, and for patients younger than 65 years with chronic constipation.



Innoviant will not process Zelnorm claims and asks members to consult with their physicians regarding alternative medications.



Pergolide

Pharmaceutical manufacturers have agreed to withdraw pergolide from the market due to potential heart valve issues. In addition to the generic pergolide, which is used to treat patients with Parkinson's disease, the drug was also marketed under the brand name Permax in the U.S.

According to the Public Health Advisory issued by the FDA, "Two new studies showed that patients with Parkinson's disease who were treated with pergolide had an increased change of serious damage to their heart valves when compared to patients who did not receive the drug."

Manufacturers have stopped shipping the medication for distribution and will work, in cooperation with the FDA, to remove both the brand and generic versions from the market. According to the FDA, "The effect

Pergolide (continued)



of this voluntary withdrawal on supplies currently in pharmacies will not be immediate. This delay will allow time for healthcare professionals and patients to discuss appropriate treatment options and to change medications.”

Because treatment with pergolide should not be stopped abruptly, Innoviant will continue to process claims for the medication until members are able to contact their physicians to discuss alternative therapies.

The complete FDA Public Health Advisory is published to inform patients of this action. A copy of this advisory is available online at <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/advisory/ pergolide.htm>

Pergolide is a member of a class of drugs known as dopamine agonists and is used with levodopa and carbidopa to manage the signs and symptoms (tremors and slowness of movement) of Parkinson’s disease.

If you have additional questions, please contact your Innoviant account manager at 866-800-4321.



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