



Compliance Alert

March 23, 2010

Express Scripts – Urgent –Emerging Therapeutic Issues Communication

This is to inform you of new, important information regarding recent changes to the prescribing information for Plavix® (clopidogrel – Bristol-Myers Squibb/sanofi-aventis). Plavix, a platelet inhibitor, is used to reduce the risk of heart attack, unstable chest pain, stroke and cardiovascular death in patients with cardiovascular disease. A new BOXED WARNING has been added to the product labeling to alert healthcare professionals that Plavix is less effective in patients who are poor metabolizers of the drug.

The boxed warning indicates that:

- Patients with reduced functioning of the CYP2C19 liver enzyme cannot effectively convert Plavix to its active form, thereby increasing a patient's risk for cardiovascular events.
- Tests are available to identify a patient's CYP2C19 genotype.
- Other anti-platelet medications or alternative dosing strategies for Plavix should be considered in patients identified as CYP2C19 poor metabolizers.

Additional information regarding this new boxed warning can be found on FDA's MedWatch website at: www.fda.gov/MedWatch .

Express Scripts response:

- In an effort to inform prescribers of this safety alert, we have identified physicians who have prescribed Plavix within the past 120 days. A communication summarizing the new boxed warning will be sent to these physicians.
- These communications will be distributed for those clients enrolled in the physician mailing portion of the Emerging Therapeutics Intervention Program.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your Group Benefit Services Account Manager at 1.800.638.6085.

This communication is not intended to be legal advice and should not be construed as legal advice. If you have any legal questions or concerns about your plan, GBS recommends seeking counsel from an ERISA attorney.

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