



# Compliance Alert

April 23, 2009

## **Express Scripts – Urgent –Emerging Therapeutic Issue**

On April 8, 2009, Genentech announced its decision to voluntarily withdraw Raptiva<sup>®</sup> (efalizumab) from the U.S. market. The company has determined that risks associated with the use of Raptiva outweigh its benefits. Raptiva can increase a patient's risk of developing progressive multi-focal leukoencephalopathy (PML), a rare and potentially fatal brain infection. Raptiva is an injectable drug that was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2003 for the treatment moderate to severe psoriasis. Raptiva will no longer be available after June 8, 2009.

Per FDA, Raptiva should not be initiated in new patients, but should only be reserved for patients who are currently receiving treatment in order to safely taper off therapy. Abruptly discontinuing Raptiva can result in a flare of symptoms. Questions regarding this withdrawal can be directed to Genentech's Medical Information/Communications Department at 1-800-821-8590. Patients who have non-clinical questions can call Genentech's call center at 1-866-480-7762. Additional information is also available online at [www.raptiva.com](http://www.raptiva.com).

### **Express Scripts' response:**

- Raptiva will no longer be covered on Express Scripts' national formularies after June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
- For clients enrolled in the Emerging Therapeutics Intervention Program (ERIP), a communication will be sent to patients and physicians highlighting this safety issue.
- The Office of Clinical Evaluation and Policy (OCEP) is coordinating activities with ESI Home Delivery and CuraScript. Communications will be sent by ESI Home Delivery and CuraScript.
- Express Scripts' standard Raptiva prior authorization criteria will be updated. New starts will not be approved. Existing users will be unaffected.
- For all Anchor adjudicated Raptiva claims, a concurrent DUR message was added to highlight the final date of availability and to warn against new starts.

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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