



# Compliance Alert

October 1, 2008

## Express Scripts Formulary Update

### Toprol XL<sup>®</sup> Tablets

#### *ISSUE*

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved AB-rated generics to AstraZeneca's blood pressure medication, Toprol XL<sup>®</sup> (metoprolol extended-release) tablets. At least three generic manufacturers now have approval to market all strengths of generic Toprol XL.

Now that generics are established in the marketplace, Express Scripts will enact a procedure that will result in the removal of the brand Toprol XL tablets from Express Scripts formularies, replacing them with equivalent generic metoprolol e.r. tablets. This procedure is being enacted because Toprol XL is marked with an '\*' on the formularies, indicating a potential conversion to non-formulary status with the availability of generics.

#### *Take-Away Points*

- Generic metoprolol e.r. tablets are AB-rated generics to Toprol XL<sup>®</sup> tablets and are now available in the marketplace.
- The brand-name product, Toprol XL tablets, will be converted to non-formulary status on October 15, 2008.
- This procedure is being enacted because Toprol XL is marked with an '\*' on the formularies, indicating a potential for conversion to non-formulary status with the availability of generics.

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In addition to Toprol XL several other drugs are scheduled to lose patent protection in 2008. The drugs listed in the table below will also be designated as “non-formulary” when generics are established in the market. However, keep in mind that although a key drug patent expires, generic products are not always readily available. There are many issues that may delay their availability, including litigation, patent settlements, final approval from FDA, and additional patents and granted exclusivities.

**Drug – Therapeutic Class – Patent Expiration**

Allegra-D® (fexofenadine/pseudoephedrine – sanofi-aventis) Allergies	Litigation
CiproDex ( ciprofloxacin/dexamethasone Otic – Alcon) Infection	Expired*
Concerta® (methylphenidate, e.r. – McNeil PPC) ADHD	Litigation
Cosopt (dorzolamide/timolol – Merck) Glaucoma	October 28, 2008
Dynacirc CR (isradipine e.r. – Reliant) Blood Pressure	July 9, 2008
Imitrex (sumatriptan – GlaxoSmithKline) Migraines	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2008
Metadate CD® (methylphenidate e.r. – UCB) ADHD	Litigation
Ortho Tri-Cyclen Lo (norgestimate/EE – J&J) Oral contraceptive	Litigation
Protopic (tacrolimus topical – Astellas) Atopic dermatitis	April 8, 2008
Trusopt (dorzolamide – Merck) Glaucoma	October 28, 2008

# Generics not yet available

***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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