



Compliance Alert

October 3, 2007

Express Scripts Formulary Update – Coreg® Tablets

Issue

On September 5, 2007, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved AB-rated generics to GlaxoSmithKline's Coreg (carvedilol) tablets, a product used for the treatment of high blood pressure and heart failure. Currently, several manufacturers are supplying generic carvedilol tablets to the markets in all currently marketed regular-release strengths.

Now that generics to Coreg tablets are established in the marketplace, Express Scripts will enact a procedure that will result in the removal of the brand Coreg from Express Scripts formularies, replacing it with generic carvedilol tablets. This procedure is being enacted because Coreg is marked with an '*' on the formularies, indicating a potential conversion to non-formulary status with the availability of generics. Please note that generics for Coreg CR™, the extended release version of Coreg, are not available at this time.

Take-Away Points

- Generic carvedilol tablets are AB-rated generics to Coreg® tablets and are now available in the marketplace.
- The brand-name product, Coreg tablets, will be converted to non-formulary status on November 1, 2007.
- This procedure is being enacted because Coreg is marked with an '*' on the formularies, indicating a potential for conversion to non-formulary status with the availability of generics.
- Please note that generics for Coreg CR, the extended release version of Coreg, are not available at this time.

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In addition to Coreg, several other drugs are scheduled to lose patent protection in 2007. 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, final approval from FDA, and additional patents and granted exclusivities.

Allegra-D® (fexofenadine/pseudoephedrine – sanofi-aventis)	Allergies	Expired#
Cognex® (tacrine – Sciele Pharma)	Alzheimer’s Disease	Expired#
Colazal® (balsalazide disodium – Salix)	Ulcerative colitis	Expired#
Concerta® (methylphenidate, e.r. – McNeil PPC)	ADHD	Expired#
Metadate CD® (methylphenidate e.r. – UCB)	ADHD	Expired#
Ortho Tri-Cyclen Lo (norgestimate/EE – J&J)	Oral contraceptive	Litigation
Requip (ropinirol – GlaxoSmithKline)	Parkinson’s disease	December 7, 2007
Skelaxin (metaxalone – King)	Muscle Relaxant	Expired#

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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