

Compliance Alert

June 26, 2006

Compliance Alert, provided by Group Benefit Services, gives you the most up to date information regarding industry news as well as legislation and regulatory activities affecting your health plan.

TOPIC: FORMULARY UPDATE FROM ESI – ALLEGRA® AND PROSCAR®

Issue

The U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved AB-rated generics to Allegra® (fexofenadine) tablets and Proscar® (finasteride) tablets. In addition to the FDA approved generics, "authorized generics", or brand manufacturer approved generics, are also available.

Now that generics to Allegra® and Proscar® are established in the marketplace, Express Scripts will enact a procedure that will result in the removal of the brand Allegra® and Proscar® from Express Scripts formularies, replacing them with the generic fexofenadine and generic finasteride products, respectively. This procedure is being enacted because Allegra® and Proscar® were marked with an '*' on the formularies, indicating a potential conversion.

Take-Away Points

- Generic fexofenadine tablets and generic finasteride tablets are AB-rated generics to Allegra® and Proscar®, respectively. Both generic products are now available in the marketplace.
- The brand-name products, Allegra® and Proscar®, will be converted to non-formulary status on August 1, 2006.
- This procedure is being enacted because both Allegra® and Proscar® are marked with an '*' on the formularies, indicating a potential for conversion.

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In addition to Allegra® and Proscar® several other drugs are scheduled to lose patent protection in 2006. 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.

Adderall XR (amphetamine salts - Shire) ADHD Expired*
Allegra® D (fexofenadine - sanofi-aventis) Allergies Expired*
Concerta (methylphenidate, e.r. - McNeil PPC) ADHD Expired*
Ditropan XL (oxybutynin, e.r. - Ortho McNeil) Overactive Bladder Expired*
Emadine (emadastine - Alcon) Ophth. Antiallergic Expired*
Metadate CD (methylphenidate e.r. - UCB) ADHD Expired*
Metrogel (metronidazole 0.75% gel - Galderma) Topical antibiotic June 6, 2006
Skelaxin (metaxalone - King) Muscle Relaxant Expired*
Toprol XL (metoprolol, e.r. - AstraZeneca) Blood pressure Expired*
Uniphyl (theophylline, c.r. - Purdue Frederick) Asthma/COPD Expired*
Wellbutrin XL (bupropion, e.r. - GlaxoSmithKline) Depression Expired*
Zocor (simvastatin - Merck) Cholesterol June 23, 2006
Zofran (ondansetron - GlaxoSmithKline) Nausea/vomiting December 23, 2006
Zoloft (sertraline - Pfizer) Depression June 30, 2006
*Generics not yet available

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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