



Pharmacy Policy Updates January/February 2009

Healthy Practices will continue to inform your office about new and updated policies. MVP encourages your office to look at all of the revisions and updates on a regular basis in the Benefit Interpretation Manual (BIM) located on www.mvphealthcare.com in the References section. The update section will list new policies and/or policy revisions at least 30 days prior to their effective date.

Proton Pump Inhibitors

A statement was added that greater than FDA-approved frequencies are not considered medically necessary. Also, quantities greater than one unit per day may be considered medically necessary if the member has tried all formulary PPIs at the highest FDA-approved dose for a minimum of 4 (changed from 8) weeks.

Constipation and IBS

The new indication for Amitiza[®] and prior authorization criteria for the treatment of IBS with constipation in women 18 years of age and older was added to the policy.

Select Agents for Inflammatory Bowel Disease

The new indication for Tysabri[®] and prior authorization criteria for the use Crohn's Disease was added to the policy.

Quantity Limits

Treximet quantity limit of 9 tablets per 30 days was added to the policy.

Psoriasis Drug Therapy

The new indication for Humira[®] and prior authorization criteria for the treatment of mild-to-moderate chronic plaque psoriasis was added to the policy.

FDA News

Over the past months, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued important medication warnings, withdrawals, and requests for product labeling changes. Highlights of FDA activities include:

- On Sept. 12, 2008, the FDA advised caregivers not to feed infant formula manufactured in China to infants due to a potential for contamination with melamine.

- Genentech issued a Dear Healthcare Professional letter in September 2008 advising of new safety information regarding the use of Tarceva[®] in patients with hepatic impairment as well as other safety-related updates to the drug's prescribing information.
- On Oct. 29, 2008, the FDA published a *Consumer Health Information* article advising that Mexican "vanilla," generally sold in Mexico and other Latin American countries but also found on the shelves of some stores in the U.S., is often made from Tonka bean extract that contains coumarin. More information can be found online at <http://www.fda.gov/consumer/updates/mexicanvanilla102908.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/5kzu5f>
- Labs recently recalled several lots of five generic drugs including propafenone, isosorbide monohydrate, morphine sulfate extended-release and dextroamphetamine due to the possibility of oversized tablets

Formulary Update for Commercial (non-Medicare Part D) Members

The MVP Formulary is updated after each Pharmacy and Therapeutics committee meeting. The most current version is available online at www.mvphealthcare.com. Log on to the site's Provider section and click on Rx Formulary in the navigation bar on the left. The MVP Formulary can be downloaded to a PDA device from www.epocrates.com.