



PROVIDER *bulletin*

August 27, 2009

Dear Provider:

The following changes will go into effect September 1, 2009, regarding our Formulary coverage. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself and staff to the amendments.

Additions:

Pentasa (5-aminosalicylic acid) Adding the 500mg strength.

Coreg (carvedilol) adding the 3.125mg strength.

Seroquel XR (quetiapine) adding to the Healthy Families product only.

Advair HFA (fluticasone/salmeterol) Diskus already on Formulary with step therapy. Adding the inhaler and will follow the same restrictions. Requires adequate and proper trial of inhaled steroids per national guidelines. Considered Step 3 in asthma management.

Zantac (ranitidine) Adding the syrup.

Arava (leflunomide) Restricted to plan rheumatologists. MTX, hydroxychloroquine, or azathioprine required as previous step treatment.

Deletions:

None

Modifications:

Sular (nisoldipine) All new starts will require to use generic strengths. Will allow the branded strengths for existing therapies.

Prilosec (omeprazole) OTC Only the generic will be Formulary.

Lamictal (lamotrigine) Adding the 25mg regular strength. Will allow all the generics to clear, will not require the change to chewable.

All codeine containing cough syrups will be limited to 240 mls per 30 days. This is expanding the current criteria regarding the promethazine/codeine to all codeine cough syrups.

Floxin Otic: Will be allowed as Formulary, restricted to 5 ml size only.

NB: The Formulary is showing nitrofurantoin as a covered item. This is the generic form of the time released Macrobid. It incorrectly identifies it as Macrochantin.

Sincerely,

Bruce Wearda, R.Ph.
Corporate Pharmacist

