TrendsRx® Launch Alert October 2006

What's new...What's next...What to do now

DRUG APPROVAL

Januvia™ (sitagliptin)*

- Januvia (Merck & Co., Inc.) is an oral medication that was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on October 16, 2006, to – along with diet and exercise – lower blood sugar in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus.[1,2]
- Januvia is administered once daily alone or in combination with metformin or a peroxisome proliferator activated receptor gamma (PPARγ) agonist (e.g., thiazolidinediones [Actos® (pioglitazone, Takeda Pharmaceuticals America, Inc.), Avandia® (rosiglitazone, GlaxoSmithKline)]).[1]
- Dosage adjustment is required for patients with moderate-to-severe renal insufficiency.[1]

THERAPEUTIC CLASS

- Dipeptidyl peptidase 4 (DPP-4) inhibitor[1]

AVAILABLE STRENGTHS

- Januvia is available in 25 mg, 50 mg and 100 mg tablets[1]

LAUNCH DATE†

- October 2006; this product is now available

BUDGET IMPACT

- Caremark estimates Januvia will increase pharmacy budgets by between $0.04 and $0.07 Per Member Per Month ($0.45 to $0.83 Per Member Per Year) during its first year on the market.[3]
- Caremark will continue to monitor the long-term budget effects of Januvia's introduction into the pharmaceutical marketplace.

CAREMARK RESPONSE

- Caremark recognizes the unique needs of plan participants with diabetes.
- Plan participants requiring Januvia may be good candidates for the CarePatterns® Health Management Program for Diabetes. This disease management program helps plan participants with diabetes better manage their condition, which includes reinforcing the importance of medication compliance, leading to overall decreased healthcare costs and improved outcomes.
- Januvia is being evaluated for inclusion into selected UR *Plus* diabetes interventions. UR *Plus* is a retrospective utilization management program that makes use of pharmacy and medical claims data.
- Caremark will monitor the use of Januvia to determine if any additional clinical programs are needed.

CAREMARK CONTACT

For more information, call your Caremark account representative.

For additional information on Januvia, please see the August 2006 Galvus® (vildagliptin, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation) and Januvia TrendsRx Pre-Approval Alert, available via www.caremark.com under the "For Clients" tab (go to the "Publications" link for a complete listing of all available publications).

Please Note: This document provides a brief overview of the subject. This review is provided as a reference only, and is based in part on information derived from third parties.

* This information is current as of October 24, 2006.

† This Launch Date may not reflect the date of availability for this medication. Due to circumstances beyond the control of Caremark, information related to prospective medication launch dates is subject to change without notice. This information should not be solely relied upon for decision-making purposes.

References

1. Januvia [package insert]. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck & Co., Inc.; October 2006.
2. Drugs@FDA. Food and Drug Administration Web site. Available at http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/drugsatfda/index.cfm. Accessed October 19, 2006.
3. Caremark Internal Pharmacy Budget Impact, Research and Development.

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