



AVANDIA UPDATE

To: HPM Providers
From: HPM Pharmacy Department
Bulletin #: 10-0225
Date: February 25, 2010
Re: Avandia Update

This past weekend, a US Senate report identified potential safety issues with the drug Avandia (rosiglitazone). The clinical study, called the Rosiglitazone Evaluated for Cardiovascular Outcomes and Regulation of Glycemia in Diabetes or RECORD study, identified the possibility of cardiovascular risks associated with the use of Avandia (rosiglitazone).

Although the FDA has not issued any conclusions or recommendations about the use of rosiglitazone in the treatment of type 2 diabetes, we feel it is important to keep you apprised of the situation. Once the FDA completes its review of the data from the RECORD study, the agency will issue further communication regarding the results of the analysis.

It is anticipated that you will receive questions from your patients currently receiving Avandia (rosiglitazone). The FDA has advised patients to continue taking their medications unless told by their healthcare professional to stop. HPM is also advising its members who call in with questions regarding the safety of using Avandia to continue taking it, and to contact their prescribers for direction.

The HPM Formulary provides coverage for the following drugs used to treat diabetes:

1st generation sulfonylureas

Chlorpropamide (Diabinese)
Tolazamide (Tolinase)
Tolbutamide (Orinase)

2nd generation sulfonylureas

Glimepiride (Amaryl)
Glipizide (Glucotrol)
Glipizide XL (Glucotrol XL)
Glyburide (Diabeta, Micronase)
Glyburide micronized (Glynase)

Alpha-glucosidase

Acarbose (Precose)

Biguanides

Metformin (Glucophage)
Metformin SR (Glucophage SR)

Meglitinides

repaglinide (Precose)

Thiazolidinediones

Pioglitazone (Actos) (15mg – 30mg daily)
rosiglitazone (Avandia) (4mg – 8mg daily)

Others (with Step Therapy edits)

exanatide (Byetta) - ST
sitagliptin (Januvia) - ST
saxagliptin (Onglyza) - ST

Insulins

regular
Aspart (Novolog / Novolog mix)
detemir (Levemir)
glargine (Lantus)
glulisine (Apidra)
Isophane (Humulin N / Novolin N)
isophane/regular (70/30, 50/50)
lispro (Humalog / Humalog Mix)

If you should have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the Pharmacy Department at 1-313-324-3700.