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Dear Health Plan of Michigan Physician,

More than a year has passed since Zocor[®] (simvastatin), a very powerful statin drug, transitioned to generic status. Many Health Plan of Michigan physicians “caught the wave” and began prescribing simvastatin. However, a fair number of physicians and patients continue to use the less effective statins, such as lovastatin and Altoprev[®] and are not achieving optimal lipid lowering results.

Our goal at Health Plan of Michigan is to assist you in reaching optimal HEDIS and treatment results with your cholesterol patients. Beginning, April 1, 2008, Health Plan of Michigan will require that all new statin starts utilize simvastatin. Health Plan of Michigan will require prior authorization for any new starts of lovastatin and Altoprev[®].

HPM patients currently taking Vytorin[®] and Crestor[®] will be allowed to continue with their existing medication regimen after April 1, 2008. For all other patients, Vytorin[®] and Crestor[®] will be available with prior authorization after failure of the maximum dose of 80 mg simvastatin. Lipitor[®] will be available with prior authorization for patients who do not respond to treatment with Crestor[®] or Vytorin[®].

Please refer to the attached statin comparative dosing and relative LDL lowering chart when prescribing a statin for your cholesterol patients.

As always, it is Health Plan of Michigan's goal to aid our physician community in achieving the best clinical and HEDIS results by offering the most effective medications on formulary.

Sincerely,

Pharmacy Department
Health Plan of Michigan



Health Plan of Michigan Statin Comparative Dosing Chart

The following chart demonstrates the effectiveness of various statin agents. Please use this guide, along with HPM's Formulary and Prior Authorization requirements, to assist in selecting the most effective medication for your patients.

Currently Utilized Statin	Percent LDL Reduction	First Line Agent Equivalent Dose	First Line Statin LDL Reduction
Atoprev 10mg	24%	Simvastatin 5mg	21-31%
Atoprev 20mg	30%	Simvastatin 10mg	27-36%
Atoprev 40mg	36%	Simvastatin 20mg	18-36%
Atoprev 60mg	40%	Simvastatin 40mg	23-43%
Lovastatin 10mg	22%	Simvastatin 5mg	21-31%
Lovastatin 20mg	17-29%	Simvastatin 10mg	27-36%
Lovastatin 40mg	28-32%	Simvastatin 20mg	18-38%
Lovastatin 80mg	25-48%	Simvastatin 40mg	23-43%

Non-Preferred Statin	Percent LDL Reduction	Second Line Agent Equivalent Dose	Second Line LDL Reduction
Lipitor 40mg	27-51%	Crestor 10mg	52%
Lipitor 80mg	43-54%	Crestor 20mg	55%

Source: Grundy SM, et.al *Circulation*. 2004;110:227-239., ALLHAT *JAMA*.2002.; ASCOT [Sever, *Lancet*. 2003]; PROSPER [Sheperd, *Lancet*.2002]; PROVE-IT [Cannon. *NEJM*.2004]