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PEI Pharmacare Bulletin

Issue (2024 - 10) **June 4, 2024**

PEI Biosimilar Initiative Reminders

Effective July 1, 2024, Humalog®, Lantus® and NovoRapid® products will no longer be eligible benefits (unless approved under the Biosimilar Exemption policy) under any PEI Pharmacare drug program.

The ongoing PEI Biosimilar Initiative requires patients who have coverage for any of the following originator drugs through PEI Pharmacare to switch to a biosimilar version before the end of the switching period for that drug to maintain coverage.

For patients prescribed Humalog®, Lantus® and NovoRapid® - the switching period ends *June 30, 2024*.

- **During the switching period**, pharmacies will be reimbursed for a biosimilar insulin therapeutic substitution by a pharmacist. Details about the fee can be found under the "Biosimilars" section on the HPEI Staff Resource Centre -Resources for Pharmacists page
- Please note: the reimbursement fee for switching originator insulin to a biosimilar insulin ends June 30, 2024.
- Some patients may require continued access to an originator insulin because their insulin pump has not yet been approved for use with the biosimilar version of their insulin. Coverage of the originator insulin will be extended beyond the end of the switching period (June 30, 2024) if compatibility has not yet been confirmed.
    - The online or paper version of the Biosimilar Switching Exemption form must be completed by the patient or *any* health care provider (including pharmacists) to identify those patients who require continued access to NovoRapid for their insulin pump.
    - Insulin pump and biosimilar insulin compatibility information was previously shared in a PEI Pharmacare Memo which can be found under the "Biosimilars" section on the HPEI Staff Resource Centre -Resources for Pharmacists page
- Links to patient information on biosimilar insulins:
    - Biosimilar Patient Information - Admelog
    - Biosimilar Patient Information - Basaglar and Semglee
    - Biosimilar Patient Information - Trurapi and Kirsty

For patients prescribed Copaxone®, Enbrel®, Humira®, Remicade® and Rituxan® - the switching period ends *September 30, 2024*.

- No special authorization renewal requests for originator biologics will be considered during the switching phase unless the patient has an approved exemption.
- For patients who do not have a scheduled appointment with their prescriber before their special authorization needs to be renewed, the patient or a health care provider may complete the online or paper switching exemption form. If the patient's appointment is scheduled before September 30, 2024, the special authorization coverage for the originator biologic may be extended for 1 month following your appointment date.

For further information about the PEI Biosimilar Initiative, please refer to:

- PEI Biosimilar Initiative webpage
- HPEI Staff Resource Centre Biosimilar Initiative Information for Health Care Providers
- Email: pei-biosimilar-initiative@gov.pe.ca
- Call: 902-218-4653

NEW PRODUCT(S) ADDED TO THE PEI PHARMACARE FORMULARY (EFFECTIVE DATE: JUNE 18, 2024)

Product (Generic name)	Product (Brand name)	Strength	Dosage Form	DIN	MFR
Ranibizumab	**Ranopto**	**10 mg/mL 0.23 mL vial**	**Vial**	**02542250**	**TEV**
Criteria	Please see online Formula for criteria for the conditions of: • Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration • Diabetic Macular Edema • Retinal Vein Occlusion • Choroidal Neovascularization				
Program Eligibility	Financial Assistance Drug Program, High Cost Drug Program, Nursing Home Drug Program, Catastrophic Drug Program				

CRITERIA UPDATE

Effective immediately, special authorization criteria for currently listed Entrectinib (Rozlytrek) have been amended to include the following indication:

Unresectable Locally Advanced or Metastatic Extracranial Solid Tumors with a NTRK Gene Fusion

- For the treatment of adult patients with unresectable locally advanced or metastatic extracranial solid tumors with NTRK gene fusion without a known acquired resistance mutation. Eligible patients are not candidates for surgery and/or radiation due to risk of substantial morbidity and have no satisfactory treatment options.

Clinical Notes:

- Patients should have a good performance status.
- Treatment should be discontinued upon disease progression or unacceptable toxicity.
- CNS metastases are stable if present.
- Patients with prior progression on an NTRK inhibitor are not eligible.