RESTAT
PRESCRIPTION BENEFIT MANAGERS

4/3/2008

Dear Pharmacist,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of planned changes to Caterpillar's pharmaceutical coverage of the following branded fenofibrate products as defined by Medispan: Tricor, Triglide, Lipofen, Lofibra tabs or caps, Antara and Fenoglide.*

Background: **Drug companies have patented different technologies to create smaller and smaller particles of fenofibrate. This increases absorption of the active ingredient, therefore requiring a lesser amount of the drug to achieve similar clinical results. For example, Tricor has evolved from a micronized capsule 200 mg (version #1), to a micronized tablet 160 mg (version #2, equivalent to the original 200 mg), to the current Version #3, a Nano crystal tablet 145 mg (equivalent to the original 200 mg). When the patent for version #1 expired, generics came to market that were AB rated to version #1. But then, Abbott released Tricor version #2. When patent #2 expired, once again, generics came to market AB rated to Version #2. Abbott then released Tricor Version #3, which currently has patent protection.**

There are generic co-pay alternatives on the market, but utilization of these generic versions is low. One alternative is AB rated to Tricor Version #2 (no longer manufactured), and the other is AB rated to Lofibra capsules, which was AB rated to Tricor Version #1 (also no longer manufactured). Some of the branded versions have the advantage of being able to be taken with or without food, whereas the generic versions must be taken with food.

Switching from a branded fenofibrate to a generic fenofibrate requires more than the physician simply prescribing the brand name drug and adding, "may substitute." Physicians are required to write a new prescription for "fenofibrate" and specify the new strength.

See the reverse side for a timeline of changes to Caterpillar's prescription drug benefit plans.

Timeline of changes to Caterpillar's prescription drug benefit plans

1. Mid-March – For coverage to be granted, a generic will be required first for all new fenofibrate users:

    54 mg or 160 mg fenofibrate tablets

    or

    67 mg, 134 mg or 200 mg fenofibrate micronized capsules

2. June 1 – Tricor brand fenofibrate will be moved from Preferred (Tier 2) to Non-Preferred (Tier 3) status on both of Caterpillar's formularies (open and closed), making all branded fenofibrates Non-Preferred.

3. August 1 – For current users of branded fenofibrate covered by Caterpillar's open formulary drug plan, a prior authorization will be required. Prior authorization forms are available on *CatHealthBenefits.com* under the "For Providers" tab. For current users of branded fenofibrate covered by Caterpillar's closed formulary drug plan, branded fenofibrate will no longer be covered by Caterpillar's prescription drug benefit.

Enclosed is a chart of potential therapeutic alternatives that you may find helpful.

Sincerely,

Patrick R. McComis

Patrick McComis, R.Ph.
Director of Clinical Services
RESTAT

References

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