

PHARMACY NEWS - 6/21/09

TO: MEDICAL STAFF
FROM: FHCP PHARMACY SERVICES

The FHCP Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee reviewed the following therapeutic classes of drugs at the last meeting, held June 2nd, 2009; analgesics and antipyretics (280800) thru mucolytic agents (482400). Listed below are the Additions and Deletions made to the FHCP Drug Formulary as a result of the P & T Committee and the Performance Improvement Council, held 6/20/09. (PPI's are attached for all new Brand name drug additions)

ADDITIONS

NONE

DELETIONS

NONE

NO NEW GENERICS HAVE BECOME AVAILABLE SINCE LAST P&T COMMITTEE MEETING.

ALTERNATIVE PRESCRIBING FOR TOPICAL TESTOSTERONE AT A GENERIC COPAY VERSES BRANDED COPAYS FOR:

**ANDROGEL 50MG/5GM, 30 PACKS
TESTIM 50MG/5GM, 30 PACKS
ANDRODERM PATCHES**

OVER \$100 SAVINGS FOR MEDICARE MEMBERS & ≥ \$45 SAVINGS FOR NON-MEDICARE

FHCP PHARMACISTS CAN COMPOUND TESTOSTERONE 50MG/1ML, 30ML BOTTLE.

THE BEST WAY TO WRITE A PRESCRIPTION FOR COMPOUNDED TESTOSTERONE IS AS FOLLOWS:

**TESTOSTERONE 1500MG
PURELL QS 30ML

APPLY 1 ML TO UPPER ARM/SHOULDER ONCE DAILY**

FHCP ALREADY HAS MANY PATIENTS RECEIVING THIS COMPOUND.

OTC Niacin Preparations:

Some patients may be able to reduce costs by using OTC Niacin preparations in place of Niaspan. Niaspan costs between \$53-\$93/ 30 tablets depending on strength, OTC Niacin is about \$4.00/ 100 tablets. Flushing with Niacin & Niaspan is dose related and most all patients on ≥ 1g/day will experience flushing to some degree regardless of formulation. Taking ASA or Ibuprofen 30minutes prior to dose can reduce flushing. Lipid benefits are similar between Niaspan and Niacin on an mg/mg basis. Interestingly, OTC niacin can increase uric acid to a greater degree than Niaspan.

OTC Niacin formulations are an area that is frequently misunderstood by both patients and health care professionals, use Plain Niacin Immediate Release (NOT flush-Free) if you are trying to treat a Dyslipidemia. 'Flush Free' or 'No-Flush' niacin contains little or no free nicotinic acid which is the active moiety. The Time Release Niacin, Niacin SR, or Niacin ER has been shown to be hepatotoxic. Below is citation for an interesting study comparing OTC Niacin vs Niaspan.

Knopp RH, Alagona P, Davidson M, Goldberg AC, Kafonek SD, Kashyap M, Sprecher D, Superko HR, Jenkins S, Marcovina S. Equivalent efficacy of a time-release form of niacin (Niaspan) given once-a-night versus plain niacin in the management of hyperlipidemia. Metabolism. 1998 Sep;47(9):1097-104.

THANKS