CORONAVIRUS

CLICK ON THE LINKS BELOW FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People™
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

DEPARTAMENTO DE SALUD
GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO
www.salud.gov.pr/Pages/coronavirus.aspx

World Health Organization
www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus

CMS.gov
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page

urac®
20 Years of Setting the Standard in Health Care
COVID-19 response web page

mc21
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www.mc-21.com

urac®
ACCREDITED
Pharmacy Benefit Management
Expires 01/01/2022

(03/23/2020)

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) INFORMATION

To Our Valued Clients,

MC-21 is committed and prepared to protect our employees to help ensure no disruption occurs to our clients during this national Coronavirus crisis. As stated in our previous communication, we continue to perform best "social distancing" practices, including a ban on commercial travel and rigorous staffing structure modifications within our offices, as most of our staff has been and continues to work remotely.

It is important to note that neither your system access nor services will be disrupted by COVID 19 issues. If you need to get in touch with any of our dedicated management team members, please use email or corporate phone contact information.

Your employees and members are both of paramount importance, so our Customer Service team remains equipped and continues to work business as usual. We are supporting our clients by enacting emergency procedures, and upon request, by allowing early refills of maintenance medications, among others.

To summarize:

- Your employees/members will continue to have access to all approved services.
- Our System and your data will be accessible to you and your authorized employees as usual.
- Our client support staff and clinical pharmacists will remain available via phone calls and emails.
- Our Pharmacy Support Center will remain available 24/7, and can assist in finding available medications, if shortages occur.
- Our wholly owned and managed data centers, all of which can be remotely administered by our IT Staff, will continue to operate without interruption.

MC-21 is here to support you during these difficult times, and we are working even harder to maintain your confidence as well as keep you informed of any and all changes. As always, we deeply value your business and if you have any questions, please reach out to your Account Executive team member, and a timely response will be coordinated.

At MC-21 we are committed to providing the best service aligned with the current Puerto Rico and global situation.

Marileny Lugo
Chief Operating Officer

mc21

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DRUG INFORMATION UPDATES

Additional Herceptin Biosimilar Available 03/16/2020

Teva Pharmaceuticals and Celltrion Healthcare recently launched Herzuma® (trastuzumab-pkrb), their biosimilar to Herceptin® (trastuzumab – Genentech). Like Herceptin, Herzuma is indicated to treat breast cancers and metastatic stomach cancers (gastric or gastroesophageal junction adenocarcinomas) that overexpress the HER2 gene (HER2+). It is given as an intravenous (IV) infusion at varying loading/ maintenance doses and on schedules that also vary according to the cancer being treated. All trastuzumab biosimilar products have boxed warnings that they may cause birth defects, heart failure, respiratory distress or severe allergic reactions, and none can be substituted for Herceptin or for each other.

Pediatric Indication for Epclusa 03/19/2020

Epclusa® (sofosbuvir/velpatasvir - Gilead) tablets was FDA approved on March 19, 2020, for treatment of children who are at least six years old or who weigh at least 17kg (about 37 pounds). First approved for adults in June 2016, it has a 12-week recommended course to treat all six known genotypes of hepatitis C. Gilead estimates that up to 46,000 children could be candidates for its use. Pediatric dosing depends on the child's weight with those weighing under 30kg taking one tablet containing sofosbuvir 200mg/velpatasvir 50mg per day and those weighing 30kg or more taking the adult dose of sofosbuvir 400mg/ velpatisvir 100mg per day. Children who have severe cirrhosis will need to take ribavirin, as well, also adjusted for weight. A boxed warning cautions that using Epclusa could activate hepatitis B virus (HBV) for patients who have or who have had HBV. Patients should be tested for HBV before, during and for several months after treatment.

DRUG ALERT

The FDA is requiring label changes for all drugs listed below that contain a sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 (SGLT2) inhibitor. Patients who take SGLT2 drugs should stop taking them *before having major surgery* because the risk of ketoacidosis, a potentially life-threatening accumulation of acids and other chemicals in the blood, may be increased. Patients will need to have alternate treatment to control blood sugar from the time that the SGLT2 inhibitor is discontinued until their food consumption is back to normal after the surgery.

- AstraZeneca's Farxiga®, Qtern® and Xigduo™ XR
- Eli Lilly's Jardiance®, Glyxambi®, Synjardy®, Synjardy® XR and Trijardy™
- Janssen's Invokana®, Invokamet® and Invokamet XR®
- Merck's Steglatro™, Segluromet™ and Steglujan™

Merck's products should be stopped 4 days prior to surgery, while the others should be stopped 3 days before.

IMPENDING FDA REVIEWS SCHEDULED FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS:

03/25 – Ozanimod (Bristol Myers Squibb): A sphingosine 1-phosphate (S1P) receptor modulator for the treatment of relapsing multiple sclerosis (MS); oral therapy.

03/26 – Rizaport® VersaFilm® (rizatriptan oral thin-film – IntelGenx): A new formulation of rizatriptan for the treatment of migraine headaches; Oral therapy.

03/28 – Triferic® (ferric pyrophosphate citrate – Rockwell Medical): A new intravenous formulation of iron for the treatment of adults who have chronic kidney disease and who require iron replacement and hemoglobin maintenance in hemodialysis; IV therapy.

GENERAL INFORMATION:
For more information on the drug information above, please either visit FDA.gov or contact your account manager.