

WY-DUR  
Wyoming Drug Utilization Review Board  
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*Aimee Lewis, Pharm.D.*  
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*Chair*  
*Rebecca Ormas, R.Ph.*  
*Vice Chair*

September 5, 2009

<<Dr. Name>>  
<<Dr. Address>>

Dear <<Dr. Name>>,

You are receiving this letter because your Medicaid patient << Medicaid Patient>> (dob x/x/x) is receiving Byetta (exenatide).

On August 18, 2008, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released the following information for healthcare professionals<sup>1</sup>:

**Update 8/18/2008:** Since issuing [Information for Healthcare Professionals](#) in October 2007, FDA has received reports of 6 cases of hemorrhagic or necrotizing pancreatitis in patients taking Byetta. Byetta is a medicine given by subcutaneous injection to help treat adults with type 2 diabetes. Of the 6 cases of hemorrhagic or necrotizing pancreatitis, all patients required hospitalization, two patients died and four patients were recovering at time of reporting. Byetta was discontinued in all 6 cases.

**Byetta and other potentially suspect drugs should be promptly discontinued if pancreatitis is suspected. There are no known patient characteristics which determine when pancreatitis associated with Byetta will be complicated by the hemorrhagic or necrotizing forms of this condition. If pancreatitis is confirmed, initiate appropriate treatment and carefully monitor the patient until recovery. Byetta should not be restarted. Consider antidiabetic therapies other than Byetta in patients with a history of pancreatitis.**

**FDA is working with the maker of Byetta, Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Inc., to add stronger and more prominent warnings in the product label about the risk of acute hemorrhagic or necrotizing pancreatitis.**

This letter is provided as an educational service from the Wyoming Drug Utilization Review program. All information is based on the Wyoming Medicaid claims system. The WY-DUR program understands that medical claims do not provide a complete picture of the patient. Thank you for continuing to serve Wyoming Medicaid patients.

Sincerely,



Aimee Lewis, Pharm.D.  
WY-DUR Manager



William Harrison, M.D, FACP  
WY-DUR Chairman

cc: Antoinette Brown, R.Ph., Pharmacy Program Manager

Reference:

1. Information for Healthcare Professionals: Exenatide (marketed as Byetta) 8/18/2008. Available online at <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/InfoSheets/HCP/exenatide2008HCP.htm>. (Accessed 9/4/2008)