

March 16, 2006

Dear Patient:

The Wyoming Drug Utilization Review program is pleased to provide you and your provider information about MS, disease-modifying therapies, and manufacturer sponsored patient support programs. Enclosed with this letter you will also receive a set of patient education sheets which describe some of the side effects of MS and how best to deal with them. You are also receiving Multiple Sclerosis: A Guide for the Newly Diagnosed by Holland, Murray and Reingold and Symptom Management in Multiple Sclerosis by Schapiro . These two books are being provided to you by Berlex, Inc.

You are receiving this information to ensure that you are aware of expert opinion on the use of drug therapy, that you are familiar with the available drug therapies, and that you consider enrollment in one or more of the manufacturer sponsored patient support programs that can help you manage your disease and maintain quality of life.

MS DESCRIPTION AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic, unpredictable, and often debilitating neuroimmunologic disease that affects approximately 400,000 people in the United States and approximately 2 million people worldwide. The majority of newly diagnosed MS patients are between the ages of 20 and 40 years, making MS the most common neurologic disorder of young adults. MS is more prevalent in women, and the disease appears to be most prevalent in individuals living in the northern temperate zones of North America and Europe. In the state of Wyoming, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS) membership approximately 1000 patients with MS. Wyoming Medicaid provides medical and pharmaceutical assistance to over 200 patients who have been diagnosed with MS.

TREATMENT OF MS

Until recently, treatment of MS focused on symptom management rather than on disease modification. Today disease modifying therapies are available that slow the progression of the disease and reduce the severity and the frequency of acute attacks. Initiation of therapy with one of these drugs is advised as soon as possible following a definite diagnosis of MS with a relapsing course. Clinical evidence indicates that high-dose/high-frequency therapy is more effective at slowing progression of the disease. Therapy should be continued indefinitely, unless there is a clear lack of benefit to treatment. Optimal treatment includes early treatment and long-term adherence to treatment. If you are not currently using one of the disease-modifying therapies, then consult with your physician to see whether or not one of these therapies is indicated for you. The FDA approved therapies indicated for the treatment of MS are listed below:

- Avonex® (interferon beta-1a), Biogen Idec®
- Betaseron® (interferon beta-1b), Berlex, Inc.
- Copaxone® (glatiramer acetate), Teva Neuroscience, Inc.
- Rebif® (interferon beta-1a), Serono, Inc.
- Novantrone® (mitoxantrone), Serono, Inc./OSI Pharmaceuticals

PATIENT COMPLIANCE TO TREATMENT

The key in continuing to live well following a diagnosis of MS is to take a proactive approach to managing the disease. Managing MS means carefully monitoring progression and actively managing symptoms. Strict adherence to treatment protocols increases the likelihood, and degree, of treatment effectiveness.

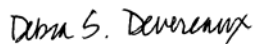
The results of a Harris Interactive Poll taken in 2001 showed that about 40% of patients with MS surveyed were not taking any approved MS medication- and that older patients and those diagnosed more than five years ago were even less likely to be taking drug therapy. The poll found that many patients go without treatment because they believe that the disease is not progressing if they are not having any symptoms. Studies have shown that even when there are no outward physical signs, the disease is often progressing in terms of number of brain lesions detectable by MRI and total brain lesion load.

With the interferons, there are high rates of injection site reactions, headache, and flu-like symptoms. Injection site reactions also occur with glatiramer acetate, as well as a post-injection systemic reaction, which includes chest pain, flushing, palpitations, anxiety, dyspnea, and urticaria. Side effects may deter you from continuing therapy. It is important to know that these side effects can be managed to allow you to adhere to your treatment regimen.

Nurses and support specialists play a critical and important role in your ongoing care. The nurse and support specialist can help you to establish reasonable expectations for proposed treatments, educate you about self-care and wellness, and prepare you for managing side effects. Enclosed is a table that describes the manufacturer sponsored patient support programs for MS. All programs offer support to patients, family members and caregivers. These programs can assist you in adhering to drug treatment regimens, in managing drug side effects, in managing symptoms of MS, and in managing quality of life issues.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We encourage you to talk to your physician about your current therapy and to enroll in one or more of the manufacturer sponsored patient support programs. There is no enrollment fee and you can enroll on-line or by telephone. Please contact the Wyoming Drug Utilization Review Program (307-766-6750) if we can be of any assistance or answer any questions with respect to these materials.

Sincerely,



Debra S. Devereaux, MBA, R.Ph.
Wyoming Drug Utilization Review Manager

MANUFACTURER SPONSORED MS SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Program Name	Sponsor	Description
B.E.T.A. Nurse Program www.betanurses.com 1-800-788-1467	Berlex, Inc.	MS specialist nurses offer personal support, assistance, and counseling for all people with MS; 24-hour nurse hotline
MS ActiveSource® www.msactivesource.com 1-800-456-2255	Biogen Idec®	MS support specialists Mon - Fri, 8:30 am – 8:00 pm (ET)
MS LifeLines SM www.ms lifelines.com 1-877-477-3243	Serono, Inc.	Educational support service for people with MS, for people on or considering Rebif®, and for the carepartners who support them. Mon - Fri, 8:00 am – 8:00 pm (ET)
MS Pathways SM www.ms pathways.com 1-800-788-1467	Berlex, Inc.	Support program for anyone touched by MS including patients, family, friends, caregivers, healthcare providers 24 –hour nurse hotline
Shared Solutions® www.sharedsolutions.com 1-800-887-8100	Teva Neuroscience, Inc.	Support program for people with MS, their families, and their caregivers Mon - Fri, 8:00 am - 8:00 pm (CT)