

Wyoming Preferred Drug List Advisory Committee
Minutes
December 2, 2004
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Members Present: Scott Johnston, Becky Drnas, Bob Schultz, Joyce Dailey, Bill Marsh, Chad Panning, Bill Harrison

Ex-officio: Aimee Lewis, Deb Devereaux

Members Excused: James Broomfield, Michael DeBisschop, Marion Smith

Guests: David Armstrong Ph.D. (Schering-Plough), Aimee Redhair, M.S. (Schering-Plough), Jesse Cole (Sanofi-Aventis), Rob Hansen (Pfizer), Bert Jones (GlaxoSmithKline), Larry Bridger (Pfizer), Tim Hynek (Lilly), Pat Teegarden (Schering-Plough), Gokul Gopalan (Schering-Plough), Matt Johnson (Takeda), Laura Hill (Takeda), Jeff Jenkins (Merck), Alan Shockett (Aventis)

The meeting was called to order with introductions and comments by Aimee Lewis at 12:00 pm.

Non-Sedating Antihistamine Review:

Susan Carson, Oregon EPC, presented Non-sedating antihistamine report by phone.

Public Comments:

Alan Shockett (Aventis) indicated that allergic rhinitis is very common and associated with significant co-morbidities, including asthma, sinusitis, and sleep problems. The morbidity is associated with high cost due to decreased productivity. Mr. Shockett discussed the fact that Allegra (fexofenadine) does not penetrate the blood brain barrier, while Claritin (loratadine) at doses greater than 10 mg does. In conclusion, Mr. Shockett requested that the decision be left to physicians due to patient variability.

Pat Teegarden and David Armstrong (Schering) reminded the committee that second generation antihistamines are recommended as first line therapy. Loratadine is not sedating. Clarinex (desloratadine) is the active metabolite of loratadine and has a longer half-life. A study showed that those who failed on loratadine had a significantly different response to desloratadine over placebo, and equal to Astelin. Patient satisfaction and physician satisfaction has been shown to be higher with desloratadine. There are no interactions with food, antibiotics or antacids. Mr. Teegarden and Mr. Armstrong also pointed out that pilots are not allowed to use Zyrtec (cetirizine) due to its sedating effects.

Larry Bridger indicated that Zyrtec (cetirizine) is approved as a Class B for pregnancy and approved for children down to six months of age. Zyrtec is approved for all three allergic indications caused by both indoor and outdoor allergies.

Committee Discussion:

Question 1: Is there any evidence that indicates that one or more non-sedating antihistamine is safer than others?

There is a higher incidence of sedation and arrhythmias with cetirizine.

Fexofenadine has more food interactions, although probably not clinically significant.

Committee indicated a need to have a liquid dosage form available. Reminder that Medicaid clients less than 21 years of age are exempt from PDL and PA.

In Europe, significant sedation has been experienced with doses of loratadine greater than 10 mg. Need to stress 10 mg dose recommendation.

DECISION: THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT INDICATES THAT ONE NON-SEDATING ANTIHISTAMINE IS SAFER THAN THE OTHERS.

Question 2: Is there any evidence that indicates that one or more non-sedating antihistamine is more effective than the others?

There is no evidence of significant differences among second-generation antihistamines regarding efficacy.

DECISION: THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT INDICATES THAT ONE NON-SEDATING ANTIHISTAMINE IS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN THE OTHERS.