
BULLETIN # 41

Manitoba Drug Interchangeability Formulary Amendments



The following amendments will take effect on
November 15, 2003.

The amended Manitoba Drug Interchangeability Formulary Regulation will be available on the Manitoba Health website <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/mdbif> on the effective date of **November 15, 2003.**

Bulletin 41 is currently available for download:
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/mdbif/bulletin41.pdf>

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BULLETIN 41

Effective: November 15, 2003

**** REMINDER: Price Change for Gen-Clozapine ****

*****Clozapine: (Note from Bulletin 40 - Effective September 15, 2003)***

After reviewing the available evidence, the Manitoba Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee has agreed to designate the new Gen-Clozapine product and the innovator product Clozaril as interchangeable.

Because of the well-known risk of agranulocytosis associated with the use of clozapine, weekly or every two-week hematological testing is necessary prior to dispensing of the next supply of medication. As a result, distribution of clozapine is regulated through a monitoring system with specific requirements set by Health Canada which involves registration of the patient, physician and pharmacist.

Two separate monitoring programs are now operational which are handled by the respective manufacturers of Gen-Clozapine and Clozaril. Patients switching from one product to the other will have to be registered into the appropriate program.

In order to ensure a seamless process and facilitate the work of physicians and pharmacists in switching their patients, Manitoba Health will accommodate the brand name price for a grace period of two (2) months.

Price in Cents

Clozapine - 25 mg - Tablets			
00894737	Clozaril	NVT	103.62
02247243	Gen-Clozapine	GPM	82.90

Clozapine - 100 mg - Tablets			
00894745	Clozaril	NVT	415.58
02247244	Gen-Clozapine	GPM	332.46

Clozapine Monitoring System - Additional Information

Manitoba patients are currently being switched from Clozaril to Gen-Clozapine. Discontinuation notices are being sent to Novartis' distribution monitoring system and physicians/pharmacists are registering these patients with Genpharm's distribution system. Pharmacists must consult with the physician when a manufacturer switch is being made as the physician has the ultimate responsibility for the patient's safety.

Health Canada has confirmed that these two monitoring systems must have the ability to work together. However, if a patient is being switched from the brand name drug to the generic drug and is being followed by the same physician, it is not necessary for one monitoring system to contact the other monitoring system. The rationale is that there is no issue of the patient being non-rechallengeable by virtue of the patient being currently on the drug and the physician having the patient's previous hematological history. It is necessary for the two monitoring systems to contact each other if the patient is new to clozapine therapy, or if the patient has changed physicians and the new physician does not know the patient's history. This would ensure the safety of the patient as the monitoring system would confirm if the patient had ever been on clozapine and the hematological history of that patient.