



Issue #129 | April 8, 2010

First-Time Generics

GENERIC NAME	GENERIC MFR	INDICATION
desloratadine	Orchid	allergies **** Clarinet
imiquimod	Graceway	sBCC & genital warts **** Aldara
diltiazem HCl ER	Watson Lab.	hypertension **** Cardizem LA

COMMENTS: Check your formularies to ensure that patients are paying generic copays for these drugs.

Antidepressants Okayed for Pilot Use

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has lifted the ban on pilots who are depressed and medicated for the depression while flying.

Under the new policy, pilots with depression can ask the agency for permission to be treated with four Brand name drugs: Prozac, Zoloft, Celexa, and Lexapro.

The FAA's new policy is expected to affect as many as 10,000 pilots, both those who've been barred from flying because they're depressed and those who were taking meds in violation of the rules. This comes after an in-depth study of the medications now deemed to be safe.

COMMENTS: Be prepared for requests for prior authorizations, if any of these antidepressants are not on your formulary. While the volume is not expected to be large, this new approval may require a change in your criteria for the treatment of depression.

MEET THE PROFESSOR...

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Inflated AWP

For some drugs, the reference databases (i.e., FDB, Medi-Span, etc.) frequently publish AWP's that are 10x (or more) greater than the expected statutory WAC*1.2 definition. The following medications are frequent offenders:

- Ondansetron
- Topiramate
- Lamotrigine
- Simvastatin

COMMENTS: The use of an inflated AWP leads to a higher price paid by the purchaser and/or a deeper AWP discount used to satisfy a guarantee. The reference databases place the responsibility for use of their information on the user, e.g., PBM, health plan, etc. Review these medications and bring up any variances to your PBM or health plan to ensure that you are not paying on inflated AWP's.

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