

## Medication Trend Updates and Preferred Drug List Changes – 3rd Quarter 2019

### Note the FDA's warning for certain sleeping drugs

Stay up to date with info about:

- Boxed warnings for certain prescription sleeping drugs.
- Changes to the CalViva Health Medi-Cal *Preferred Drug List* (formulary) for the third quarter of 2019.

#### Boxed warning on certain prescription sleeping drugs

On April 30, 2019, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that a boxed warning on certain prescription sleeping drugs, including eszopiclone (Lunesta®), zaleplon (Sonata®) and zolpidem (Ambien®, Ambien® CR, Edluar®, Intermezzo, and Zolpimist™) would be added to the prescribing information and the patient Medication Guides for these medicines advising patients about the risk of serious side effects that can lead to death.

The FDA identified 66 cases of complex sleep behaviors occurring with these medicines over the past 26 years that resulted in serious injuries, including death. Serious injuries and death from complex sleep behaviors (including sleepwalking, sleep driving and engaging in other activities while not fully awake) have occurred in patients with and without a history of such behaviors, even at the lowest recommended doses. These incidents can occur after just one dose or after a longer period of treatment. These behaviors can occur after taking these medicines with or without alcohol or other central nervous system depressants that may be sedating, such as tranquilizers, opioids and anti-anxiety medicines. The underlying mechanisms by which these insomnia medicines cause complex sleep behaviors are not completely understood.

Health care professionals should not prescribe eszopiclone, zaleplon or zolpidem to patients who have previously experienced complex sleep behaviors after taking any of these medicines. Advise all patients that, although rare, the behaviors caused by these medicines have led to serious injuries or death. Tell the patient to discontinue taking these medicines if they experience an episode of complex sleep behavior.

For more information, visit [www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-adds-boxed-warning-risk-serious-injuries-caused-sleepwalking-certain-prescription-insomnia](http://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-adds-boxed-warning-risk-serious-injuries-caused-sleepwalking-certain-prescription-insomnia).

#### CalViva Health Medi-Cal Preferred Drug List changes

The Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee, which includes practicing physicians, pharmacists and other health care professionals, reviews medications on the CalViva Health Medi-Cal *Preferred Drug List* each quarter to determine medications to stay on or be moved to a different status. A list of some recent changes is provided in the

THIS UPDATE APPLIES TO MEDI-CAL PROVIDERS:

- Physicians
- Participating Physician Groups
- Hospitals
- Ancillary Providers

#### PROVIDER SERVICES

1-888-893-1569  
[www.healthnet.com](http://www.healthnet.com)

table below. A complete CalViva Health Medi-Cal *Preferred Drug List* is available on the provider website at [provider.healthnet.com](http://provider.healthnet.com) under *Pharmacy Information*.

### CalViva Health Medi-Cal *Preferred Drug List* changes

Medication	Status	Formulary alternative(s)	Comments
<b>Oral medications</b>			
Daurismo™ (glasdegib) tablet	NF	Venclexta*, **	In combination with low-dose cytarabine, for the treatment of newly-diagnosed acute myeloid leukemia (AML) in adult patients who are age 75 or older or who have comorbidities that preclude use of intensive induction chemotherapy.
Firdapse® (amifampridine) tablet	NF	pyridostigmine	Treatment of Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome (LEMS) in adults
Vitrakvi® (larotrectinib) capsule and oral solution	NF		Treatment of adult and pediatric patients with solid tumors that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a neurotrophic receptor tyrosine kinase (NTRK) gene fusion without a known acquired resistance mutation,</li> <li>• Are metastatic or where surgical resection is likely to result in severe morbidity, and</li> <li>• Have no satisfactory alternative treatments or that have progressed following treatment</li> </ul>
Xospata® (gilteritinib) tablet	NF		Treatment of adult patients who have relapsed or refractory AML with a FMS-like tyrosine kinase 3 (FLT3) mutation as detected by an FDA-approved test

### Intranasal preparations

Spravato™ (esketamine) nasal spray	NF	Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor: citalopram, escitalopram, fluoxetine, paroxetine, sertraline  Serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor: duloxetine, venlafaxine, desvenlafaxine  Tricyclic antidepressant: amitriptyline, desipramine, doxepin, imipramine, nortriptyline, protriptyline  Other antidepressants: bupropion, mirtazapine	Treatment of treatment-resistant depression (TRD) in adults, in conjunction with an oral antidepressant.  Limitation(s) of use: Spravato is not approved as an anesthetic agent. The safety and effectiveness of Spravato as an anesthetic agent have not been established.
--	----	--	---

\*Prior authorization (PA) is required to verify member eligibility and that the member satisfies clinical protocols to ensure appropriate use of the medication.

\*\*CCS = California Children's Services: refer to [www.dhcs.gov](http://www.dhcs.gov) for the local telephone number to determine member's coverage eligibility.

---

• NF indicates nonformulary. These medications require member-specific medical reasons why formulary medications cannot be considered. Requests are reviewed via Health Net's prior authorization process.

### **Additional information**

Providers are encouraged to access the provider portal online at [provider.healthnet.com](http://provider.healthnet.com) for real-time information, including eligibility verification, claims status, prior authorization status, plan summaries, and more.

If you need additional information regarding the CalViva Health Medi-Cal *Preferred Drug List*, contact the Pharmacy Department by telephone at 1-800-867-6564, press option #2, or by fax at 1-800-977-8226. For all other questions contact CalViva Health at 1-888-893-1569.