

# VMC Pharmacy and Therapeutics Updates

## September 2024 Decisions and Highlights

Medication Name or Topic Discussed	Decision Point	Indication	Mechanism of Action / Dosing	Comments and Go-Live Date
Secukinumab (COSENTYX®) IV infusion	<b>ADDED to formulary</b> , restricted to Infusion Center with appropriate prior authorization for FDA labelled indications	Psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis	Secukinumab is a human IgG1 monoclonal antibody that selectively binds to the interleukin-17A (IL-17A) cytokine and inhibits its interaction with the IL-17 receptor. Secukinumab inhibits the release of proinflammatory cytokines and chemokines.  <i>Dosing:</i> 6mg/kg loading dose (optional) then 1.75mg/kg every 4 weeks (max dose = 300mg)	Go-live pending EPIC build

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Andexanet alfa (ANDEXXA®)	<b>Decision made to NOT add Andexanet alfa (ANDEXXA®)</b> to inpatient formulary given lack of clear benefit vs. financial implications compared to current standard of care (4F-PCC)	N/A
IV/IM promethazine removal	<i>Update from 2022 P&amp;T Decision: IV/IM promethazine has been formally removed from formulary as of October 2024.</i> This was previously approved in November 2022 as an ISMP Best Practice for Medication Safety, however, implementation was delayed. Coupled with a long-term drug shortage, it has been now been removed from order sets and EPIC.	October 2024
Emergency Department Pharmacist Collaborative Drug Therapy Agreement (CDTA)	<b>ED Pharmacist CDTA approved.</b> CDTA will allow for ED pharmacists to have prescriptive authority to make clinical decisions for therapy changes when evaluating cultures returning for discharged ED patients.	October 2024
Patient's Own Medication Policy	<b>Updates made to POM policy to revamp process of pharmacist verification of POMs and communication with providers.</b>	TBD after approval at PIQA

### Consent Agenda:

1. **Ophthalmic Eye Drop therapeutic interchange addition:** add Betaxolol S to therapeutic interchange list:

Convert FROM:	Convert TO:
Timolol XE 0.25% gel - daily Betoptic S 0.25% - BID	Timolol 0.25% drops BID
Timolol XE 0.5% gel - daily Betoptic S 0.5% - BID	Timolol 0.5% drops BID

2. **Therapeutically interchange 505(b2) approved Zituvio (sitagliptin) for Januvia (sitagliptin) for inpatient use only:** Zituvio is a newly approved 505(b)2 generic of sitagliptin (Januvia) with the same indications. It is significantly more cost effective for inpatient use – with an estimated cost savings of \$10,000 with 100% conversion.

For questions or more information, please contact Kamal Sandhu, PharmD – Clinical Pharmacy Manager and P&T Co-Chair  
[kamal\\_sandhu@valleymed.org](mailto:kamal_sandhu@valleymed.org)