



**Gold Coast  
Health Plan**<sup>SM</sup>  
A Public Entity



# Pharmacy Newsletter

September 17, 2014 - Q4

[www.goldcoasthealthplan.org](http://www.goldcoasthealthplan.org)



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## SECTION 1: CMO Message

Diabetes is a disease that exacerbates unwanted outcomes not only for Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) members, but to the overall cost associated in managing their health care needs.

As a drug class, diabetic medications are currently the most costly. In the first half of 2014, GCHP paid \$3,205,620 for diabetic medications and supplies. This figure does not include the dollars spent for diabetic co-morbidities. GCHP has 6695 members utilizing diabetic medications and 9400 member using diabetic medications and supplies. Diabetic members are about 6% of the membership, but are responsible for 11.5% of the total drug spend. Non-diabetic members cost \$24.50 per member per month; diabetic members cost \$144.62 per member per month. Most of GCHP's diabetic members have multiple co-morbidities including hypertension, hyperlipidemia, depression and renal disease which necessitates additional pharmacological treatment.

GCHP is dedicated to the optimal treatment of our diabetic members. The Plan is in the process of developing a disease management program for diabetes. The program will identify the diabetic population, provide instructional materials and offer classes to enhance their knowledge of the disease, diet, activity, self-management and medication management. The program will also identify the members who are at the highest risk and attempt to enroll them in the Plan's Care Management Program.

We will also be identifying our pre-diabetic members and invite them to participate in the disease management program in order to help prevent them from advancing to outright diabetes and developing diabetic complications. The Plan particularly wants to promote the appropriate use of diabetic medications. Diabetic patients are frequently on multiple medications with a complicated schedule that can lead to missed dosages, overdoses or taking the medication inappropriately. We anticipate that the disease management program will begin in the first quarter of 2015.

GCHP currently has an active care management program and if a member is identified as having difficulties with their medications, the member can be referred to care management for assistance with their medication management. I'll keep you posted regarding the launch of this new program and as always, don't hesitate in contacting me if you have any questions.

## SECTION 2: Medicare Part D Cost Share Reminder

Gold Coast Health Plan wanted to remind all providers regarding the requirement for the member cost share of Medicare Part D drugs. All GCHP members who are eligible for Medicare Part D are required, per federal law, 42 U.S.C. § 1396u-5(d)(1), to pay for their Part D drug cost sharing. GCHP is unable to cover the member cost share. Members should pay no more than \$2.55 for each generic and \$6.35 for each brand-name covered drug in 2014.

GCHP has identified a processing error that inappropriately covered the cost sharing for some members. The pharmacy adjudication system will be corrected on October 1, 2014 and will no longer cover the member cost share. GCHP notified members on or about August 1, 2014 regarding the error and to expect to pay their cost share beginning October 1, 2014. GCHP will send a follow-up communication to new members on or about September 15, 2014.

## SECTION 3: Formulary Changes

The following changes to the Gold Coast Health Plan formulary will be effective 10/1/2014:

Drug	Formulary Status/Change
Myalept	Added with a prior authorization
Impavido	Added with a prior authorization
Tanzeum	Added with a prior authorization
Zykadia	Added with a prior authorization
Dalvance	Added with a prior authorization
Hemangeol	Added with a prior authorization
Nicotine patches and gum	Remove prior authorization and increase quantity limit to 180/365
Nicotine lozenges	Add with a quantity limit
Nicotrol Nasal Spray	Add with step therapy and quantity limit (180 days of therapy per year)
Nicotrol Inhaler	Add with step therapy and quantity limit (180 days of therapy per year)
Rhinocort AQ	Removed from the formulary, generic now available
Celebrex	Removed from the formulary, generic now available
Tarceva	Removed from the formulary, generic now available
Diovan	Removed from the formulary, generic now available
Cosmetic, Fertility and Drugs Used to Treat ED	Removed from the formulary

## SECTION 4: FDA Alerts – New FDA Drug Approvals, Drug Safety Labeling Changes, Drug Shortage, FDA Safety Alerts

### FDA New Drug Approvals

The information included in this section will be a list of new drugs approved by the FDA. This is only a subset of all drugs that were approved and include all first time approvals and any other significant drug approvals. [Click here](#) to access the FDA website.

Brand Name	Generic Name	Dosage Form	Summary of Indication and Mechanism of Action
Cerdelga	Eliglustat	Capsules	Cerdelga is a glucosylceramide synthase inhibitor indicated for the long-term treatment of adult patients with Gaucher disease type 1 who are CYP2D6 extensive metabolizers (EMs), intermediate metabolizers (IMs), or poor metabolizers (PMs) as detected by an FDA-cleared test
Plegridy	Peginterferon beta-1a	Injection	Plegridy is an interferon beta indicated for the treatment of patients with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis
Belsorma	Suvorexant	Tablet	Belsorma is an orexin receptor antagonist indicated for the treatment of insomnia, characterized by difficulties with sleep onset and/or sleep maintenance
Invokamet	Canagliflozin/ metformin	Tablet	Invokamet is a new oral antidiabetic combination agent.
Jardiance	Empagliflozin	Tablet	Jardiance is a new sodium – glucose co-transporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitor indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus
Striverdi Respimet	Olodaterol	Oral inhalation spray	Striverdi is a new long acting beta2 adrenergic agonist indicated for the long-term, once daily maintenance bronchodilator treatment of airflow obstruction in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), including chronic bronchitis and/or emphysema.



Brand Name	Generic Name	Dosage Form	Summary of Indication and Mechanism of Action
Zydelig	Idelalisib	Tablets	Zydelig is a kinase inhibitor indicated for the treatment of patients with relapsed chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), in combination with rituximab, in patients whom rituximab alone would be considered appropriate therapy due to other co-morbidities; relapsed follicular B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma (FL) in patients who have received at least two prior systemic therapies; relapsed small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL) in patients who have received at least two prior systemic therapies
Kerydin	Tavaborole	Topical solution	Kerydin is an oxaborole antifungal indicated for the topical treatment of onychomycosis of the toenails due to <i>T. rubrum</i> or <i>T. mentagrophytes</i>



**FDA Safety Labeling Changes**

The information included in this section will be all safety labeling changes that are new or updated black box warnings or contraindications. [Click here](#) to access this information from the FDA website.

Drug	Type of Change	Change
Sporanox	New Boxed Warning and New Contraindications	<p><b><i>BOXED WARNING</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coadministration of the following drugs are contraindicated with Sporanox Capsules: methadone, disopyramide, dofetilide, dronedarone, quinidine, ergot alkaloids (such as dihydroergotamine, ergometrine (ergonovine), ergotamine, methylergometrine (methylergonovine)), irinotecan, lurasidone, oral midazolam, pimozone, triazolam, felodipine, nisoldipine, ranolazine, eplerenone, cisapride, lovastatin, simvastatin and, in subjects with renal or hepatic impairment, colchicine. Coadministration with itraconazole can cause elevated plasma concentrations of these drugs and may increase or prolong both the pharmacologic effects and/or adverse reactions to these drugs. For example, increased plasma concentrations of some of these drugs can lead to QT prolongation and ventricular tachyarrhythmias including occurrences of torsades de pointes, a potentially fatal arrhythmia.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>CONTRAINDICATIONS</i></b></p> <p><b>Drug Interactions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coadministration of a number of CYP3A4 substrates are contraindicated with Sporanox. Plasma concentrations increase for the following drugs: methadone, disopyramide, dofetilide, dronedarone, quinidine, ergot alkaloids (such as dihydroergotamine, ergometrine (ergonovine), ergotamine, methylergometrine (methylergonovine)), irinotecan, lurasidone, oral midazolam, pimozone, triazolam, felodipine, nisoldipine, ranolazine, eplerenone, cisapride, lovastatin, simvastatin and, in subjects with renal or hepatic impairment, colchicine. This increase in drug concentrations caused by coadministration with itraconazole may increase or prolong both the pharmacologic effect and/or adverse reactions to these drugs. For example, increased plasma concentrations of some of these drugs can lead to QT prolongation and ventricular tachyarrhythmias including occurrences of torsade de pointes, a potentially fatal arrhythmia.</li> </ul>



Drug	Type of Change	Change
Alsuma	New contraindications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The maximum recommended dose that may be given in 24 hours is two doses of Alsuma separated by at least 1 hour</li> </ul>
Arixtra	New boxed Warnings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optimal timing between the administration of ARIXTRA and neuraxial procedures is not known</li> </ul>
LinzeSS	New boxed warnings and contraindications	<p><b>BOXED WARNING</b> <b>WARNING: PEDIATRIC RISK</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LINZESS is contraindicated ... in nonclinical studies, administration of a single, clinically relevant adult oral dose of linaclotide caused deaths due to dehydration in young juvenile mice. ...The safety and efficacy of LINZESS has not been established in pediatric patients under 18 years of age</li> </ul> <p><b>CONTRAINDICATIONS</b> LINZESS is contraindicated in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pediatric patients under 6 years of age</li> </ul>

### Drug Shortages

The information included in this section documents drug shortages that were updated in the past 30 days that affect the prescription benefit for GCHP. [Click here](#) to access this information from the ASHP Resource Center website.

Drug Product	Affected Manufacturers	Summary
Ethambutol	VersaPharma	Temporarily unavailable with no release date
Calcium acetate	Paddock	Paddock discontinued calcium acetate tablets
Methylphenidate	Sandoz	Sandoz have 5 mg, 10 mg, and 20 mg IR products on backorder with an estimated release date in mid-September
Tiopronin	Mission Pharmaceuticals	Thiola 100 mg are available, but all patients must go through Thiola total Care Hub
Hydroxychloroquine	Ranbaxy, Sandoz, West-Ward, Zydus, Covis	Product is available from Mylan; Sandoz and Covis product will be available in mid-October





## FDA Drug Safety Communications

The information included in this section is drug alerts that were released in the last 3 months by the FDA that affect the prescription benefit for GCHP.

Drug	Communication Summary
	<p><i>The FDA has not released any new safety communications since the last Pharmacy Newsletter.</i> <b><a href="#">Click here</a></b> to access previously listed Drug Safety Communications from the FDA.</p>