First Generic Versions of the Antidepressant Pristiq Approved

Background:

Recently the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that Alembic Pharms Ltd, Sandoz Inc., Mylan Inc., and Lupid Ltd had received approval to begin marketing the new drug product desvenlafaxine extended release (ER).\(^1\) Desvenlafaxine ER is the first generic version available for the medication Pristiq\(^a\).\(^1\) Desvenlafaxine ER is indicated to treat major depressive disorder.\(^2\) Desvenlafaxine ER will be available in strength(s) of 50 and 100 mg and should be taken whole with or without food. The anticipated release date for this new product as well as pricing are unknown at time of publication but may be delayed to due litigation.

Impact to Our Customers:

Healthcare Solutions supports the substitution of more expensive brand name medications with all FDA-approved generic equivalents. Our policy is based on the fact that the FDA requires generic prescription medications to meet the same standards for quality, purity, potency, and strength as brand-name drugs and the fact that generic prescription medications are less costly.\(^3\) Healthcare Solutions has clinical programs in place to recommend generic substitution when appropriate. Substituting desvenlafaxine ER for Pristiq is expected to provide cost savings to our customers' drug spend. Overall impact will be client dependent as the use of Pristiq in our entire book of business is less than 0.1% by prescription volume.\(^4\)

For questions regarding this eAlert or to learn more about our Clinical Rx Services please contact your dedicated Account Executive.

Sources:


