FDA Approves New Analgesic Using Nanotechnology

Background:
Iroko Pharmaceuticals, LLC recently announced that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) received approval to begin marketing its new drug product Vivlodex™ (meloxicam).¹ Vivlodex™ is indicated for the management of osteoarthritis pain. Vivlodex™ will be available in strengths of 5 mg and 10 mg and should be taken once a day.² According to Iroko Pharmaceuticals, LLC Vivlodex™ is the first FDA-approved low dose SoluMatrix® meloxicam.¹ The pricing information and anticipated release date for this new product is unknown at time of publication.

Impact to Our Customers:
Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) were within the top 10 drugs by both spend and utilization for claims within Healthcare Solutions' book of business in 2014.³ Iroko Pharmaceuticals, LLC states that Vivlodex™ was developed to align with recommendations from FDA and many professional medical organizations that NSAIDs be used at the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible duration.¹,⁴ Vivlodex™ is the third FDA-approved low dose NSAID developed by Iroko Pharmaceuticals, LLC.¹ The other two products are Zorvolex® (diclofenac) and Tivorbex® (indomethacin).⁵ Healthcare Solutions' Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (P&T) will evaluate whether to recommend coverage status of this medication in the future; at this time, however, the medication will require a prior authorization on our drug formularies.

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

Sources: