

## Attachment 2

### Analysis of anti-emetic drugs

#### Objectives:

- To analyze the utilization
- To assess whether a need exists for quantity limits

#### Methods:

All drug claims for the 5-HT antagonist anti-emetics (ondansetron, granisetron, dolasetron, alosetron) and aprepitant were extracted for July 2004 through June 2005. Diagnosis information from medical claims from 1/1/2004 through 11/30/2005 was also extracted for any patient receiving any contained in the drug extract.

#### Preliminary results:

A table of the aggregated data is attached.

			RXs	Amt Pd
# of recips receiving anti-emetic drug	2360		6775	\$4,353,253.23
# of recips with appropriate diagnosis	2325		6676	\$4,278,577.99
# of recips with inappropriate diagnosis (including N and V)	35		99	\$74,675.24
# of recipients with pregnancy diagnosis	604			
# with hyperemesis diagnosis	268			

1. Selected all claims for 5-HT antagonist anti-emetic from 7/1/04 through 6/30/05
2. Identified unique recipients (N=2360)
3. Extracted all diagnoses associated with identified patients' medical claims
4. Selected diagnoses associated with nausea/vomiting.
5. Queried for acceptable diagnoses by patient
6. Did not find an approved diagnosis for 35 patients

The DUR Board recommended removing patients if nausea and vomiting were the only diagnosis available. This resulted in one additional patient without an acceptable diagnosis.

The issue was further refined to review claims to decide if quantity limits might be appropriate for this drug class.

#### Additional results

Claims were re-extracted and aggregated by total number of units dispensed for analysis.

Recipients were selected if the annual quantity dispensed exceeded 200. The recipients were rank ordered by quantity.

Some of the large quantities dispensed were the result of oral liquid dosage forms that are dispensed by milliliters which tends to inflate the quantity. A query was run on the top 15 ranked patients by quantity. Fourteen of these 15 patients have complicated medical conditions most of which seem to have legitimate reasons for the use of anti-emetics. Individualized chart review or some other face-to-face intervention would be necessary to verify this.

#### Conclusion/Recommendations:

Based on the analysis, we would recommend that no quantity limits be placed on these drugs.