



## Recently Introduced Products

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Impact	Expected Avg. Annual Cost
<b>Uloric 80mg</b>	Treatment of gout	\$	\$580.35

\$: Est. drug plan expenditure increase of <1%\* \$\$: Est. drug plan expenditure increase of 1-5%\* \$\$\$: Est. drug plan expenditure increase of >5%\*

## Restasis® – A Novel Pharmacological Treatment for Dry Eye

Restasis® (cyclosporine) is the first prescription therapy approved by Health Canada for the treatment of moderate to moderately severe dry eye disease. Dry eye is characterized by inflammation of the surface of the eye and/or lacrimal glands resulting in reduced tear production, ocular discomfort and visual disturbance. Long-term complications of dry eye include damage to the ocular surface, increased risk for infections of the eyes and corneal ulcers<sup>1</sup>. Dry eye is a very common disorder. In the United States, it has been estimated that 10 to 30% the population is affected<sup>2</sup>. In optometric practice, Canada Dry Eye Epidemiological Study found from a sample of age 10 to 80 patients, 20.7% reported dry eye syndromes.<sup>3</sup>

Currently available treatments for dry eye are non-pharmacological, including artificial tears and other non-medicinal formulations used to restore moisture to the surface of the eye. Patients are also encouraged to reduce exposure to environmental factors such as wind, dust, air conditioning, and to avoid staring at computer or television screens. Such treatments are often impractical or not feasible.<sup>1,2</sup>

Restasis® is an ophthalmic solution applied twice daily to each eye. Unlike artificial tears and other moisturizing formulations, Restasis® is the first treatment to target the underlying causes of dry eye. Although its exact mechanism of action is unknown, it is thought to act as a partial immunomodulator, reducing inflammation of the ocular surface<sup>2</sup>. Cost of therapy varies based on length of treatment. When administered at the recommended dose, the cost is approximately \$2280.00 for a one-year treatment. Restasis® is fully covered under ClaimSecure's Open Drug Formularies, the Specialty Drug Programs and ClaimSecure's Stoploss program. However, it is placed under Special Authorization for ClaimSecure groups that subscribe to the Managed Formulary. The Special Authorization process ensures the following: 1) the medication is used for its approved indication(s); 2) the member has tried less expensive over-the-counter artificial tears or other moisturizing formulations; and 3) coordination of benefits with available provincial drug programs.

If you require additional information about Restasis®, please contact the Clinical Services Department, at (905) 949-2322 or 1-888-479-7587.

### Recommendation: Special Authorization

*ClaimSecure reserves the right to amend in part or in its entirety stated special authorization clinical guidelines*

#### References:

- 1) Restasis™ Private Payer Submission Binder. Allergan Canada Inc., August, 2010.
- 2) Foster, C Stephen. Dry Eye Syndrome. <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1210417-overview> Accessed October 15, 2010.
- 3) P.A. Asbell and M.A. Lamp Dry Eye Disease - The Clinician's Guide to Diagnosis and Treatment Published in 2006

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\* Based on the Financial Impact Analysis per 100 000 lives covered  
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