

Losartan / Hydrochlorothiazide 100mg/12.5mg tablet

Product:

LOSARTAN / HYDROCHLOROTHIAZIDE
(Hyzaar®) 100mg/12.5mg tablet

Class of drugs:

Angiotensin II receptor blocker
combined with diuretic

Indication:

Treatment of hypertension (high blood
pressure)

Manufacturer:

Merck Frosst Canada Ltd.

Highlights of Recommendation:

- ◆ Hyzaar is a combination tablet containing two drugs, losartan and hydrochlorothiazide, used in the treatment of high blood pressure.
- ◆ Two other strengths of the same drug, 50mg/12.5mg and 100mg/25mg tablets, are already listed on the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary as General Benefits. Losartan/hydrochlorothiazide (Hyzaar) 100mg/12.5mg is a new dosage strength added to the current product line to allow for greater flexibility in dose adjustments.
- ◆ The per tablet cost of losartan/hydrochlorothiazide (Hyzaar) 100mg/12.5mg is the same as that for the 50mg/12.5mg tablet and the 100mg/25mg tablet. Losartan/hydrochlorothiazide (Hyzaar) is less expensive than some of the other combination products in the same drug class.
- ◆ Overall, the Committee noted that the new 100mg/12.5mg tablet strength of losartan/hydrochlorothiazide (Hyzaar) provides added flexibility in dosing. Moreover, funding this additional tablet strength will likely be cost-neutral to the program.

Background:

High blood pressure (hypertension) affects one in five Canadians. Untreated, high blood pressure can lead to heart attack, stroke and kidney failure. Risk factors for hypertension include excess weight, lack of exercise, unhealthy diet, stress, and excessive alcohol consumption. Modifying these risk factors is the first approach in managing high blood pressure. Medications are required to manage patients who have high blood pressure despite lifestyle changes.

There are many types of medication used to treat high blood pressure. These include diuretics, beta-blockers, angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, angiotensin II receptor blockers, calcium channel blockers, alpha-blockers, vasodilators, and central-acting agents. The standard approach is to prescribe one drug at a time. A second drug is usually added if the first drug was not effective or the patient experienced side effects at higher doses of the first drug.

Losartan/hydrochlorothiazide (Hyzaar) is a combination of two drugs, an angiotensin II receptor blocker and a diuretic, both of which have been proven to reduce mortality and morbidity due to high blood pressure.

CED Recommendation

The CED recommended that losartan/hydrochlorothiazide (Hyzaar) 100mg/12.5mg tablet be listed on the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary as a General Benefit. This new tablet strength provides additional flexibility in dosing and is available at the same price per tablet as the existing Hyzaar 50mg/12.5mg and 100mg/25mg tablets.

Executive Officer Decision

Based on the CED's recommendation, the Executive Officer decided to list losartan/hydrochlorothiazide (Hyzaar) 100mg/12.5mg tablet on the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary as a General Benefit.

Status

Funding available through the Ontario
Public Drug Programs.

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Detailed Discussion:

No additional details. The full CED discussion is as outlined in the *Highlights of Recommendation* section.

CEDAC Recommendation:

(<http://www.cadth.ca/index.php/en/cdr/recommendations>)

The Canadian Expert Drug Advisory Committee (CEDAC) did not review losartan/hydrochlorothiazide (Hyzaar) 100mg/12.5mg tablet.



Ministry of
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