

Oxycodone

Product:

OXYCODONE (OxyContin®),
5mg controlled-release tablet

Class of drugs:

Opioid analgesic (pain relief)

Indication:

Treatment of chronic
moderate-to-severe pain

Manufacturer:

Purdue Pharma

CED Recommendation

The CED recommended that oxycodone (OxyContin) 5mg controlled-release tablet not be listed on the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Formulary, on the basis that it does not provide any additional value given what is currently available on the Formulary.

Executive Officer Decision

Based on the CED's recommendation, the Executive Officer has decided not to list oxycodone (OxyContin) 5mg controlled-release tablets.

Status

No funding through the
Ontario Public Drug Programs.

Highlights of Recommendation:

- ◆ Oxycodone controlled-release (OxyContin) is a long-acting narcotic used to manage moderate-to-severe pain by releasing medication over a 12 to 24-hour period. Specifically, oxycodone controlled-release tablet (OxyContin) is intended for patients with continuous pain who require treatment over an extended period of time (e.g., cancer pain).
- ◆ Other long-acting narcotic pain medicines that are currently listed on the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Formulary include Codeine Contin, Hydromorph Contin, M-Eslon and MS Contin.
- ◆ OxyContin 5mg is a new strength of oxycodone controlled-release tablet. OxyContin 10mg, 20mg, 40mg, and 80mg tablets are currently listed on the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Formulary.
- ◆ The price of the 5mg tablet, at \$0.60, is more expensive on a price per mg basis than currently listed controlled-release oxycodone (OxyContin) tablets. The Committee indicated that the lower-strength 5mg tablet should be priced proportionately lower than the higher-strength controlled-release oxycodone (OxyContin) tablets.
- ◆ **Overall, the CED concluded that the oxycodone controlled-release (OxyContin) 5mg tablet does not provide added value for recipients of the ODB Program.** Therefore, the Committee recommended that oxycodone controlled-release tablet (OxyContin) 5mg not be listed on the Formulary.

Background:

Controlled-release oxycodone (OxyContin) is a long-acting form of oxycodone used to relieve moderate-to-severe pain. Oxycodone belongs to a group of medications called strong opioid analgesics, or narcotic analgesics, which are painkillers that can become addictive over time. These drugs are intended for patients with chronic, moderate-to-severe pain who require continuous treatment over a long period of time.

These products are not intended to treat everyday aches and pains. In studies of patients taking an opioid, typically 89% of them suffer common side effects such as constipation, nausea, sleepiness and dizziness, although these effects did decrease over time.

Controlled-release oxycodone is available as OxyContin 10mg, 20mg, 40mg and 80mg tablets on the ODB Formulary. It is designated to treat chronic pain in patients who cannot tolerate, or have failed treatment with another listed painkiller in this class.

Detailed Discussion:

- ◆ The manufacturer, Purdue Pharma, asked the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to list oxycodone controlled-release tablet (OxyContin) 5mg on the ODB Formulary in a similar manner as other OxyContin products.
- ◆ This is the third time the CED has reviewed oxycodone controlled-release (OxyContin) 5mg tablets. The Committee has repeatedly questioned the need for such a small dose of oxycodone in a long-acting preparation. The Committee noted that, even in the elderly population or in patients who are very sensitive to opioids, there are many Formulary alternatives available, including low dose short-acting preparations.

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- ◆ The Committee noted that there has been a dramatic increase in the use of controlled-release oxycodone (OxyContin) over the past several years. The clinical reason for this is unclear, as oxycodone has not been demonstrated to be therapeutically superior to morphine or other opioid analgesics.
- ◆ The Committee reviewed recent consensus guidelines from the *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* (Assessment, Diagnosis and Treatment of Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathic Pain. Mayo Clin Proc, 2006). The Committee indicated that the data within the submission was not compelling, since it showed no therapeutic superiority over less costly alternatives such as morphine or other opioid analgesics. In addition, the Committee cited the dramatically increased and inappropriate use of controlled-release oxycodone (OxyContin) as a public health concern.
- ◆ With the current availability of multiple narcotic analgesics on the Formulary, the Committee maintained that controlled-release oxycodone (OxyContin) 5mg tablet does not serve an unmet therapeutic need.
- ◆ The price of the 5mg tablet, at \$0.60, is more expensive on a price per mg than currently listed oxycodone controlled-release tablets (OxyContin). The 10mg tablet is priced at \$0.80.
- ◆ Overall, the Committee concluded that oxycodone controlled-release (OxyContin) 5mg tablets do not provide added clinical or economic value for recipients of the ODB program.

CEDAC Recommendation:

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

The Canadian Expert Drug Advisory Committee (CEDAC) did not review oxycodone controlled-release (OxyContin) 5mg tablets.



Ministry of
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