

NOTICE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

May 6, 2009

Change of Funding Status

Rosiglitazone (Avandia[®]) and Pioglitazone (Actos[®] and Generics)

Effective June 1, 2009, rosiglitazone (Avandia) and pioglitazone (Actos and generics) will only be available for funding through the Exceptional Access Program (EAP).

These changes have been prompted by product labeling changes and multiple warnings issued by the manufacturer and approved by Health Canada. Patients are urged to discuss the current labeling and warnings with their physicians to determine appropriateness for ongoing use.

Patients Currently on Rosiglitazone or Pioglitazone

Patients currently being treated with rosiglitazone or pioglitazone will continue to have coverage with no interruption in therapy. EAP approvals will **not** be required for patients who have received a claim for either of these products in the 12 months prior to the listing change.

Patients NOT Currently on Rosiglitazone or Pioglitazone

Physicians will be required to make an application through the EAP program for coverage for any new patient that is being started on either rosiglitazone or pioglitazone. Requests may be submitted by fax (416-327-7526 or 1-866-811-9908) or through the new Telephone Request Service (416-327-8109 or 1-866-811-9893). The EAP criteria are available on the Telephone Request Service for EAP webpage at:
www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/drugs/eap_trs.html.

More information regarding the status change for rosiglitazone and pioglitazone may be found in the "Questions and Answers" document on the Ministry website at:
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/drugs/opdp_eo/notices/notices_docs/tzd_faq.pdf

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