


New Gabapentin Dosage Form May Result in Increased Drug Costs



Gralise™, the once-daily dosage form of gabapentin, was approved by the FDA in January 2011. Gabapentin is an anticonvulsant used to treat seizures and certain types of pain and is currently one of the 10 drugs most utilized by Cypress Care's clients. Because the once-daily dosage form of gabapentin does not have a generic equivalent, we anticipate the release of Gralise™ will have an impact on our clients' prescription drug costs.

Gralise™ is designed to be taken once daily as opposed to the 3 times daily generic gabapentin. Patients must be titrated to the effective dose of Gralise™ over a 2-week period. The FDA has approved the release of a starter pack for this purpose. The most common side effects of Gralise™ are dizziness, drowsiness and headache.

Cypress Care's clinical pharmacy staff has contacted the manufacturer of Gralise™, Depomed, to confirm that Gralise™ will be available by the fourth quarter of 2011. At this time, pricing for this new drug has not been released. Cypress Care will continue to update our clients with the most current information as it becomes available.

The utilization of Gralise™ has the potential to significantly raise prescription drug costs for our clients. Our Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee will be reviewing Gralise™ to determine workers' compensation drug formulary inclusion. Cypress Care is committed to controlling the proper utilization of Gralise™ once it is available to ensure our clients' prescription drug costs remain at a minimal level.

If you have any questions about the release of Gralise™ and how it may affect your prescription drug costs, please contact your **Cypress Care dedicated Account Manager** or **Cypress Care's clinical pharmacy staff** at **800.419.7191**.

