BRITISH COLUMBIA
CENTRE *for* EXCELLENCE
in HIV/AIDS

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Dear Doctor,

Two new antiretroviral fixed dose combination products, Triumeq™ and Prezcobix™, are now available through the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (BC-CfE) Drug Treatment Program as alternatives to first line therapy for treatment of HIV-1 infection in adults. Safety and efficacy of these medications has not been established in persons <18 years or in pregnant or breastfeeding women.

1. Triumeq™ (dolutegravir 50 mg, abacavir 600 mg, lamivudine 300 mg)

Triumeq™ tablets contain the integrase strand transfer inhibitor dolutegravir and the nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors abacavir and lamivudine. The BC-CfE Therapeutic Guidelines consider Triumeq™ to be an alternative treatment option if a first line regimen cannot be used.

The dose of Triumeq™ is one tablet daily, taken with or without food. The 50 mg dolutegravir dose in Triumeq™ is insufficient when co-administered with strong inducers of hepatic metabolism (e.g. phenytoin, efavirenz, rifampin) and may require supplemental dolutegravir dosing.

Possible side effects include insomnia, headache, fatigue, nausea, abnormal dreams, and rash. Triumeq™ use is associated with an early but stable increase in serum creatinine of 10-12 umol/L due to inhibition of tubular secretion of creatinine by dolutegravir.

Triumeq™ should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after cation-containing products (e.g. calcium, magnesium, iron supplements, antacids, sucralfate). Dolutegravir increases metformin exposure, therefore monitoring for metformin toxicity and glycemic control is recommended.

Triumeq™ may be requested through the BC-CfE Drug Treatment Program as follows:

- ***Patients already taking a BC-CfE approved regimen which includes the components of Triumeq™ at equivalent doses:***
    - At the time of the next prescription fill, the prescriber may modify the

prescription to specify a switch from the current dolutegravir/ abacavir/ lamivudine products to "Triumeq™ one tablet daily". It is not necessary to complete a Prescription Request form.

- Patients should finish their current medication supply before starting Triumeq™.

- ***Antiretroviral initiation or regimen change:*** Complete and submit an HIV Drug Treatment Program Prescription Request form (found at http://www.cfenet.ubc.ca/drug-treatment-program/how-obtain-hiv-medication). Please indicate on the Prescription Request why preferred first-line agents (e.g. atazanavir/ritonavir or efavirenz) cannot be used. Screening for HLA-B*5701 allele (predictive of abacavir hypersensitivity reaction), drug interactions and evaluation for drug resistance is required prior to approval.

2. Prezcobix™ (darunavir 800 mg, cobicistat 150 mg)

Prezcobix™ tablets contain the protease inhibitor darunavir plus cobicistat, a novel pharmacokinetic booster. Prezcobix™ must be used in combination with other antiretroviral agents to provide a complete regimen. The BC-CfE Therapeutic Guidelines consider Prezcobix™ to be an alternative treatment option if a first line medication (e.g. atazanavir/ ritonavir) cannot be used.

The dose of Prezcobix™ is one tablet daily, taken with food. The 800 mg darunavir dose in Prezcobix™ is intended for patients without darunavir resistance mutations and without drug interactions or other clinical conditions, which would require darunavir 600 mg twice daily dosing.

Possible side effects of Prezcobix™ include diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, headache, rash, and elevated hepatic transaminases. Darunavir contains a sulfonamide moiety, therefore Prezcobix™ should be used with caution in patients with known sulfonamide allergy. Cobicistat is associated with a decrease in estimated creatinine clearance of approximately 10-12mL/min due to inhibition of tubular secretion of creatinine. Use of tenofovir (e.g. Truvada™, Viread™) with Prezcobix™ is not recommended for patients with estimated creatinine clearance <70mL/min.

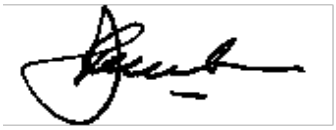
Cobicistat is a potent inhibitor of CYP3A4 and 2D6 and therefore may interact with other medications cleared through these pathways. The use of rifampin, lovastatin, simvastatin, triazolam, colchicine, salmeterol, and ergotamine derivatives with Prezcobix™ is *contraindicated*. Evaluation of drug interactions should be undertaken prior to and during treatment with Prezcobix™. Prezcobix™ should not be administered concurrently with ritonavir (e.g. Norvir™, Kaletra™) or with other cobicistat-containing products (Stribild™).

Prezcobix™ may be requested through the BC-CfE Drug Treatment Program as follows:

- ***All new prescriptions for Prezcobix™*** require submission of a completed HIV Drug Treatment Program Prescription Request form, including switches from darunavir/ ritonavir to Prezcobix™. Please indicate on the Prescription Request why a first-line agent (e.g. atazanavir/ritonavir) cannot be used. Evaluation for drug interactions and drug resistance is required prior to approval.

Should you have any questions regarding these medications please call the St. Paul's Hospital pharmacy at 1-888-511-6222.

Regards



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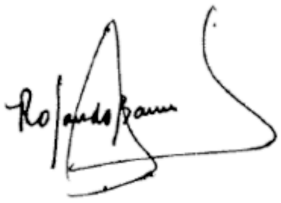

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