

## PREFERRED DRUG LIST UPDATES

### Integrated (Title 19/21 SMI) and ACC, DD, ALTCS and DCS CHP

#### **Additions:**

- Gefitinib 250 mg tablet (Prior Authorization)
- Kalydeco 13.4 mg packet (Prior Authorization)
- Lurasidone 120 mg tablet (Quantity Limit, Age Limit)
- Lurasidone 20 mg tablet (Quantity Limit, Age Limit)
- Lurasidone 40 mg tablet (Quantity Limit, Age Limit)
- Lurasidone 60 mg tablet (Quantity

#### Limit, Age Limit)

- Lurasidone 80 mg tablet (Quantity Limit, Age Limit)
- Mekinist 0.05 mg per mL solution (Prior Authorization)
- Tafinlar 10 mg tablet (Prior Authorization)
- Trikafta 100 mg/50 mg/75mg/75 mg therapy pack (Prior Authorization)
- Trikafta 80 mg/40 mg/60mg/59.5 mg therapy pack (Prior Authorization)

#### **Removals:**

- Esomeprazole magnesium delayed release 40 mg capsule
- Iressa 250 mg tablet
- Latuda 120 mg tablet
- Latuda 20 mg tablet
- Latuda 40 mg tablet
- Latuda 60 mg tablet
- Latuda 80 mg tablet
- Omega-3 ethyl esters 1 gm capsule

#### **Other Updates**

- None

### Behavioral Health (Non-Title 19/21)

#### **Additions:**

- None

#### **Removals:**

- None

#### **Other Updates**

- None

\*\* Drugs that are not on the formulary may be available via PA (prior authorization) \*\*

- For the complete preferred drug lists, please refer to the Mercy Care websites below
  - RBHA: <https://www.mercycareaz.org/providers/rbha-forproviders/pharmacy>
  - Mercy Care RBHA uses four preferred drug lists, depending on your member's eligibility.
    - **Behavioral Health Preferred Drug List:** For members who qualify under Title 19/21 Non-SMI or as Non-Title 19/21 determined to have a serious mental illness (SMI), or Non-Title 19/21 children with a serious emotional disturbance (SED), Mercy Care RBHA fills only behavioral health medications.
    - **Integrated Preferred Drug List:** For Title 19/21 SMI members, Mercy Care RBHA fills physical health and behavioral health medications.
    - **Crisis Medication List:** For adults or children who are Non-Title 19/21 and Non-SMI who present in crisis at any of the facility-based psychiatric urgent care centers, detox facilities and/or access point in Maricopa, Gila or Pinal counties. The medications on this list will help stabilize an individual in crisis and bridge them to a follow-up outpatient appointment.

- **Substance Abuse Block Grant Medication List**: For Non-Title 19/21 members with SUDs and primary substance use and misuse.
  - ACC, DD, ALTCS and DCS CHP: <https://www.mercycareaz.org/providers/completecare-forproviders/pharmacy>

### **Rexulti to Treat Agitation in Alzheimer's**

The FDA has granted approval for Rexulti expanding indication to treat agitation associated with Alzheimer's disease dementia (AAD). Rexulti is now the first FDA approved ADD treatment indicated in the U.S. Agitation associated with AAD includes symptoms ranging from pacing or restlessness to verbal and physical aggression, which are viewed as leading causes of assisted living or nursing home placement as well as are associated with accelerated disease progression.

Rexulti is an atypical antipsychotic used for treatment of schizophrenia and as adjunct treatment for major depression. It belongs to a subclass of atypical antipsychotics known as "dopamine system stabilizers (DSS)," which are partial dopamine agonists (in contrast to other antipsychotic agents that are full dopamine antagonists).

Following results from two 12-week studies, patients included in these studies had: a probable diagnosis of Alzheimer's dementia, a score between 5 to 22 on the Mini-Mental State Examination (test to detect cognitive impairment), and exhibited the type, frequency, and severity of agitation behaviors that require medication. Trial participants ranged between 51 to 90 years of age.

Patients in the first trial received 1 or 2 mg of Rexulti while patients in the second trial received 2 or 3 mg. The primary endpoint to determine efficacy in these studies was the change from baseline in the Cohen-Mansfield Agitation Inventory total (CMAI) score at week twelve. (CMAI is a questionnaire that uses input from caregivers to rate the frequency of certain agitative behaviors in dementia patients on a scale from 1 to 7.) In both studies, patients who received 2 mg or 3 mg of Rexulti showed statistically significant and clinically meaningful improvements in total CMAI scores compared to patients in the placebo group at week twelve.

A titration to treat agitation is recommended where 0.5 mg is taken once daily for seven days, followed by 1 mg once daily for next seven days, then 2 mg once daily starting on day 15. As with all other antipsychotics, the FDA will require a Boxed Warning for Rexulti that elderly patients with dementia-related psychosis treated with antipsychotic drugs are at an increased risk of death.

Please note Rexulti is a non-preferred product and requires prior authorization using the criteria found here: [https://www.azahcccs.gov/Resources/Downloads/PharmacyUpdates/AZM\\_FFS\\_06012023.pdf](https://www.azahcccs.gov/Resources/Downloads/PharmacyUpdates/AZM_FFS_06012023.pdf)

### **FDA Approves First Over-the-Counter Naloxone Nasal Spray**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Narcan, 4 milligram (mg) naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray for over the counter (OTC), nonprescription, use. Naloxone is an opioid antagonist indicated for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose, as manifested by respiratory and/or

central nervous system depression. NARCAN® Nasal Spray is intended for immediate administration as emergency therapy in settings where opioids may be present. NARCAN® Nasal Spray is not a substitute for emergency medical care.

Reminder for quicker determinations of a Prior Authorization use the ePA link for Our Providers: Please click [here to initiate an electronic prior authorization \(ePA\)](#) request

**References:**

1. [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2023/205422s009lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2023/205422s009lbl.pdf)
2. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-over-counter-naloxone-nasal-spray>

***This newsletter is brought to you by the Mercy Care Pharmacy Team. For questions, please email Fanny A Musto ([MustoF@mercycares.org](mailto:MustoF@mercycares.org)), Denise Volkov ([VolkovD@mercycares.org](mailto:VolkovD@mercycares.org)) or Trennette Gilbert ([gilbert@mercycares.org](mailto:gilbert@mercycares.org))***