BlueCross BlueShield Federal Employee Program

ZYPREXA RELPREVV
(olanzapine)

RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION IN PA PROGRAM

Background

Zyprexa Relprevv is a long-acting atypical antipsychotic used in the treatment of schizophrenia. The exact mechanism by which this drug works is unknown. However, it has been proposed that this drug's efficacy in schizophrenia is mediated through a combination of dopamine and serotonin type 2 (5HT2) blockade. Zyprexa Relprevv should be administered by a healthcare professional every 2 to 4 weeks by deep intramuscular gluteal injection, and length of treatment has not been established. Tolerability with oral olanzapine must be established prior to initiating treatment with Zyprexa Relprevv (1).

Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indication: Zyprexa Relprevv is a long-acting atypical antipsychotic for intramuscular injection indicated for the treatment of schizophrenia (1).

Zyprexa Relprevv has a boxed warning citing the risk of post-injection delirium/sedation syndrome. Zyprexa Relprevv must be administered in a registered healthcare facility with ready access to emergency response services. Patients must be observed at the healthcare facility by a healthcare professional for at least 3 hours post each injection. Because of this risk, Zyprexa Relprevv is available only through a restricted distribution program called Zyprexa Relprevv Patient Care Program and requires prescriber, healthcare facility, patient and pharmacy enrollment (1).

Zyprexa Relprevv also carries a boxed warning on the risk of increased mortality in elderly patients with dementia-related psychosis. Elderly patients with dementia-related psychosis treated with antipsychotic drugs are at an increased risk of death. Zyprexa Relprevv is not approved for the treatment of patients with dementia-related psychosis (1).

Zyprexa Relprevv should be discontinued in case of severe neutropenia (absolute neutrophil count <1000/mm^3), tardive dyskinesia if clinically appropriate, and neuroleptic malignant syndrome (1).

Zyprexa Relprevv should be used with caution in patients with a history of seizures or with conditions that potentially lower the seizure threshold (1).

Safety and effectiveness of Zyprexa Relprevv in pediatric patients have not been established (1).

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Summary

Zyprexa Relprevv is a long-acting atypical antipsychotic used in the treatment of schizophrenia. The exact mechanism by which this drug works is unknown. Zyprexa Relprevv should be administered by a healthcare professional every 2 to 4 weeks by deep intramuscular gluteal injection. Length of treatment has not been established. Tolerability with oral Zyprexa (olanzapine) must be established prior to initiating treatment with Zyprexa Relprevv (1).

Prior approval is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate, and cost-effective use of Zyprexa Relprevv while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

References

1. Zyprexa Relprevv [package insert]. Montgomery, AL: H-2 Pharma, LLC; October 2023.