firstscript

Clinical Bulletin

August 30, 2018

Subject: FDA approves generic version of EpiPen® (epinephrine)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first generic version of EpiPen® and EpiPen Jr® (epinephrine) auto-injector for the emergency treatment of allergic reactions, including those that are life-threatening (anaphylaxis).[1]

Teva Pharmaceuticals gained approval to market its generic epinephrine auto-injector in 0.3 mg and 0.15 mg strengths. Teva has not shared a timeframe for development, production, and distribution yet, but stated that "The company is applying its full resources to this important launch in the coming months and is eager to begin supplying the market."[2]

The FDA has approved alternatives including other auto-injector-delivered epinephrine formulations, such as brand Auvi-Q®, as well as other generic epinephrine versions that are available in different delivery systems such as in vial and syringe form.

The Impact

The availability of generic formulations will have a positive impact on market availability for injured workers and cost savings for payers. Coventry has consistently observed a small usage of epinephrine products within workers' comp, and it is typically not in formulary. However, it can be appropriately managed on a case-by-case basis in consultation with our clinical services.

For more information, please contact your Account Manager or Account Pharmacist.

1. https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm617173.htm
2. http://www.tevapharm.com/?catid={d0cf901f-a779-41d3-9f5e-0f153335605b}#{3EE8E0E9-6327-4074-9F3D-2A2064381B30}

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