

Subject: First generic for Truvada® now available in the U.S.

Teva Pharmaceuticals announced the market launch of a first generic for Truvada (emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) on October 7, 2020.¹ This comes by way of an agreement to grant Teva an exclusive right to market a generic equivalent product one year before the brand patent expires. This exclusive right will exist for six months, when other competitors may launch their own versions.² The arrival of a first generic competitor to a branded medication is usually accompanied by a modest reduction in price, followed by more significant discounting when additional competitors choose to enter the market.

Truvada is an antiretroviral drug product containing two medications, emtricitabine and tenofovir, indicated for the management of human immunodeficiency virus 1 (HIV1) infections and for HIV1 pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).³ PEP, or post-exposure prophylaxis, is a short course of several anti-HIV drugs taken very shortly after a possible exposure to prevent an infection. Inadvertent workplace exposures (e.g., needle sticks, bodily fluids) in health care delivery, laboratory, public sanitation, and emergency responder settings, account for most workers' compensation cases that involve potential exposure to HIV1 and related PEP treatments.

Truvada and Isentress® (raltegravir) are included in a drug regimen conditionally recommended in the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) for PEP.⁴ A growing number of state workers' compensation formularies now include conditional coverage of specialty medications that constitute PEP protocols.

The Impact

Claims including the use of specialty medications (used to manage complex, chronic conditions with significant costs) grew 16.4% between 2018 and 2019 at First Script®, a substantial number of which were antiretroviral medications.⁵ The introduction of this first generic for Truvada with six-month market exclusivity should result in modest initial price discounting for PEP treatment courses, followed by more significant reductions as additional generics enter this competitive space.

Should specific questions or concerns arise, or for more information, please contact your Account Manager, Account Pharmacist or email us at: askthepharmacist@coventry.com

1. TevaPharm.com. News and Events-Press Releases. Accessed at: <https://ir.tevapharm.com/news-and-events/press-releases/press-release-details/2020/Teva-Launches-First-Generic-Versions-of-HIV-1-Treatments-TRUVADA-emtricitabine-200-mgtenofovir-disoproxil-fumarate-300-mg-and-ATRIPLA-efavirenz-600-mgtenofovir-disoproxil-fumarate-300-mg-Tablets-in-the-U.S/default.aspx>
2. POZ.com. Article – First generic for Truvada Now Available United States. Accessed at: <https://www.poz.com/article/first-generic-truvada-now-available-united-states>
3. Truvada Highlights of Prescribing Information. Accessed at: https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2018/021752s051bl.pdf
4. The Official Disability Guidelines. Accessed at <https://www.odgbymcg.com>
5. Coventry Workers Compensation Services. Drug Trends 2019. Infographic-Part4. Accessed at: https://coventrywcs.com/content/Menu/Home/News_Insights/Drug_Trends.html

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