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Inland Empire Health Plan

PHARMACY TIMES

BY IEHP PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

February 8, 2018

Important Notice: Use of Diclegis in Pregnancy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting

Dear IEHP Provider,

Due to the high number of prior authorization (PA)/coverage determination (CD) requests IEHP receives for Diclegis, IEHP would like to remind Providers on the use of Diclegis in the treatment of pregnancy-induced nausea and vomiting in women.

According to American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), first-line pharmacologic treatment is vitamin B6 (pyridoxine) (with minimal fetal risk) or vitamin B6 plus doxylamine (Pregnancy Category A).

- Vitamin B6 is a safe treatment that may be tried first.
- Doxylamine, a medication found in over-the-counter sleep aids, may be added if vitamin B6 alone does not relieve symptoms.

As a reminder, vitamin B6 (pyridoxine) is available on IEHP formulary for both Medi-Cal and Medicare lines of business without requiring a PA or CD review, and doxylamine (e.g. Unisom) is available over-the-counter.

Diclegis is a fixed dose combination drug product containing both doxylamine and vitamin B6 and requires PA or CD review process. **Please note, if a PA or CD is submitted for Diclegis, IEHP will only approve the request if ALL required criteria are met, including trial and failure of formulary alternative, vitamin B6.**

The following are IEHP's Diclegis Formulary Status and PA/CD requirements:

Line of Business	Formulary Status	Prior Authorization/Coverage Determination criteria	Formulary Alternative
Medi-Cal	Non-Formulary, requires Prior Authorization	Failure or clinical adverse effects to the formulary alternative, pyridoxine or Vitamin B6	• Vitamin B6 (pyridoxine)
Medicare	Non-Formulary, requires Coverage Determination review	Dependent upon Coverage Determination review	• Vitamin B6 (pyridoxine)



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As a reminder, IEHP formulary information is available at:
<https://ww3.iehp.org/en/providers/pharmaceutical-services/formulary/>

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact us at (909) 890-2049 between 8:00 AM -5:00 PM Monday through Friday. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
IEHP Pharmaceutical Services

Reference:

1. Practice Bulletin Summary No. 153: Nausea and Vomiting of Pregnancy.
http://journals.lww.com/greenjournal/Abstract/2015/09000/Practice_Bulletin_Summary_No__153__Nausea_and.42.aspx. Accessed November 21, 2017.
2. Morning Sickness: Nausea and Vomiting of Pregnancy.
<https://www.acog.org/Patients/FAQs/Morning-Sickness-Nausea-and-Vomiting-of-Pregnancy>