Indian Health Service
Ophthalmic Prostaglandin Analogues
IHS National Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee
IHS National Supply Service Center
Last Reviewed: April 2011

In April 2011, the IHS National Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (NPTC) modified the National Core Formulary (NCF) by removing the closed class status for the ophthalmic prostaglandin analogue (OPA) Travatan® (travoprost). Travoprost remains a NCF item and should still be maintained and available on local formularies. The NPTC will continue to monitor this class and will review it again in the Fall of 2011.

Background:
The NPTC received valuable consult from an IHS ophthalmologist and the IHS Chief Consultant for Optometry. The NPTC first reviewed the OPA class of medications in February 2008. The OPA class was named to the NCF on the basis that the drug class was considered a standard of care. In December 2008, the NPTC voted to name travoprost as a closed-class item for the NCF. The committee concluded that there was no clinical advantage to using one product over another and therefore closing the class to one product was a viable option due to the favorable pharmacoeconomic advantages with travoprost.

Discussion:
In March 2011, the FDA granted approval to five manufacturers for their generic latanoprost ophthalmic solution. These generic products became available for purchase late March 2011, which changed the market dynamics within this drug class. As previously noted, the closed-status has been removed for travoprost, but it remains a NCF item and should still be maintained on local formularies.

Utilization and Cost Avoidance:
When the NPTC first began reviewing this drug class, the IHS purchased approximately 49,000 units totaling approximately $1.7 million in expenditures in FY 2008. The market share consisted of latanoprost holding approximately 83% of the total market share, followed by travoprost at 9% and bimatoprost at 8%, respectfully. With this formulary decision, the market share for the OPA class reversed with travoprost holding approximately 79% of the total market share, followed by latanoprost at 16% and bimatoprost at 5% at the conclusion of quarter 2, FY11. Because of the collaborative efforts from all I/T/U facilities, NSSC and the NPTC, patients had increased access to a highly effective medication class as evidenced by the 21% growth in the class with approximately 61,504 units purchased in FY10. Despite unit growth and increased accessibility, the Indian Health System was still able to generate over $2.6 million in cost avoidance with travoprost's inclusion on the NCF.

Procurement:
The special pricing for travoprost (Travatan Z®) will remain effective through September 2011. At that time, NSSC and Alcon will discuss the viability of continuing the BPA and further updates will be provided accordingly. Multiple generics of latanoprost are available through the PPV. If you anticipate switching patients to a generic latanoprost product, please notify your local McKesson distribution center (DC) or contact McKesson Service First at VA_SF@mckesson.com with your modified estimated monthly quantities to ensure product availability.

Thank you for your continued support of the NPTC. If you have any questions regarding this document, please contact the NPTC at nptc1@ihs.gov or NSSC at nssc1@ihs.gov.