Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health

Agence canadienne des médicaments et des technologies de la santé

CEDAC FINAL RECOMMENDATION and REASONS for RECOMMENDATION

RAMIPRIL/FELODIPINE
(Altace® Plus Felodipine – Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc.)

Description:
Altace® Plus Felodipine is a fixed dose combination of ramipril and an extended release formulation of felodipine. It is approved for the treatment of mild to moderate essential hypertension in patients for whom combination therapy is appropriate. Altace® Plus Felodipine is not indicated for initial therapy and patients should be titrated to a stable dose of the individual components prior to initiation of therapy with Altace® Plus Felodipine.

Dosage Forms:
Tablets containing rampril 2.5 mg/extended release felodipine 2.5 mg and ramipril 5 mg/extended release felodipine 5 mg

Recommendation:
The Canadian Expert Drug Advisory Committee (CEDAC) recommends that Altace® Plus Felodipine not be listed.

Reasons for the Recommendation:
1. Altace® Plus Felodipine is only available in two strengths of the fixed-dose combination, limiting individualized dose titration.

2. In treating hypertension, therapy should be optimized with one drug before adding a second antihypertensive agent. The recommended dose range of ramipril in the treatment of hypertension is 2.5 to 20 mg per day and doses are often titrated above 5 mg per day. The use of Altace® Plus Felodipine at doses of ramipril above 5 mg per day would be more expensive than the combined use of the individual components, resulting in higher costs for drug plans.

3. Altace® Plus Felodipine has not been shown to improve medication adherence compared with the individual agents.

Summary of Committee Considerations:
The Committee considered a systematic review of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) comparing the fixed dose combination of ramipril/extended release felodipine with each of the individual components and/or with placebo. Three RCTs met the inclusion criteria for the systematic review. In all three RCTs, the fixed dose combination of ramipril/extended release felodipine resulted in significantly greater

reductions in systolic and diastolic blood pressure compared to each of ramipril or felodipine alone in patients with mild to moderate hypertension.

The fixed dose combination of ramipril/extended release felodipine has a side effect profile similar to that of the individual components.

Both strengths of Altace® Plus Felodipine cost $1.08 per day which is less than the combined use of the individual components (range $1.24 to $1.41 per day) but more expensive than other antihypertensive combinations.

Of Note:

1. Both published and unpublished data were reviewed and taken into consideration in making this recommendation.

Background:

CEDAC provides formulary listing recommendations to publicly funded drug plans. Recommendations are based on an evidence-based review of the medication's effectiveness and safety and an assessment of its cost-effectiveness in comparison to other available treatment options. For example, if a new medication is more expensive than other treatments, the Committee considers whether any advantages of the new medication justify the higher price. If the recommendation is not to list a drug, the Committee has concerns regarding the benefit/harm of the medication, and/or concerns about whether the medication provides good value for public drug plans.