



NOTICE

Revision to Bulletin #44

- Implementation of the COX-2 benefit coverage move from Part 2 to Part 3, outlined in Bulletin #44, has been delayed until **November 1, 2004**.
- Please advise eligible Pharmacare clients they will have an additional two (2) months to contact their physician to arrange for application of coverage under Part 3 Exception Drug Status (EDS).

EDS CRITERIA COVERAGE FOR COX-2 INHIBITORS

For the long-term treatment of osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis in patients who have one or more of the following risk factors:

- a) Previous peptic ulcer, gastrointestinal bleeding, gastric outlet obstruction (endoscopy or radiographic evidence);
- b) Elderly (more than 65 years of age);
- c) Concurrent warfarin therapy;
- d) Bleeding disorders; and
- e) Concurrent prednisone therapy at doses greater than 5 mg per day for more than two weeks.

OR

- Where at least 3 NSAID's have been tried and failed or were not tolerated.

NOTE: For treatment of osteoarthritis, patients must have completed an adequate trial of acetaminophen.

DIN	BRAND	GENERIC	STRENGTH	FORM	MFR
02248973 02248974	Apo-Meloxicam	meloxicam	7.5 mg 15 mg	Tablets	APX
02239941 02239942	Celebrex	celecoxib	100 mg 200 mg	Capsules	SEA
02242785 02242786	Mobicox	meloxicam	7.5 mg 15 mg	Tablets	BOE
02248267 02248268	pms-Meloxicam	meloxicam	7.5 mg 15 mg	Tablets	PMS
02247889 02248031	ratio-Meloxicam	meloxicam	7.5 mg 15 mg	Tablets	RPH
02241107 02241108	Vioxx	rofecoxib	12.5 mg 25 mg	Tablets	MFX