



**DRUGS THAT LOST PATENT PROTECTION**

March 15 – March 27, 2009

BRAND NAME	GENERIC NAME	INDICATION
VUSION	miconazole; petrolatum; zinc oxide	Diaper rash with yeast infection
TOPAMAX	topiramate	Seizures
LIDODERM	lidocaine	Shingles
NUTROPIN	somatropin recombinant	Growth hormone
CLARINEX	desloratadine	Antihistamine

**COMMENTS:** Check your formularies to ensure that patients are paying generic copays for these drugs.

**AWP LITIGATION**

On 3/17/09, Judge Patti B. Saris, of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, issued a Memorandum and Order giving final approval to the AWP [settlement](#). According to the terms as approved by the court, First DataBank will be required to (1) adjust its reporting of Blue Book AWP, approximately 1400 NDCs in number, by reducing the mark-up factor utilized in connection with the calculation of the Blue Book AWP data field to 1.20 times the WAC or Direct Price for those NDCs that are on a mark-up basis, (2) establish a centralized data repository to facilitate reasonable access to discoverable material from First DataBank concerning its drug price reporting practices, (3) make a one million dollar contribution in a court-supervised fund for the benefit of the settlement class members, and (4) pay the agreed-upon attorneys fees and other

**PRICING TRENDS**

Pro Pharma recently ran AWP unit pricing changes for 2006 to present. On average over the last quarter AWP unit prices for brand increased 16%, generic prices increased 20%, and multisource products increased 10%. That would seem to be severe enough, but since July 2008 to present AWP unit prices for brands increased 62%, generics increased 20%, and multisource increased 16%.

**COMMENT:** If you would like a summary page of the price changes, please contact us. There are reports that brand prices have increased to compensate for the lack of new products in the manufacturers' pipelines. Of equal concern is that shortages in generics have lead to generic price increases that are not reduced when the shortages have been corrected. The concerns of plan management continue to be a challenge even in the face of increased generic products.

**JCODE x NDC BRIDGE**

*Every entry on the JCode Calculator™ has a field that allows for Medical Claims Payment Teams to click once to access all JCodes that pertain to that drug...*

The Pro Pharma quarterly update for the JCode Calculator™ product removes the "hassle factor" from pricing and paying claims. The list now contains ASP, Part B HCPCS codes and updated AWP, WAC and complete search capability on all fields. You can also get NDC's grouped by category to project costs for treating various diseases. Pro Pharma clients report savings of over 40% over claims paid on a billed basis, and have decreased adjuster and/or examiner time and hassle. Pick your format from

expenses in the amount of approximately \$1.1 million to the same court supervised fund for the benefit of the settlement class members.

**COMMENT: The settlement of the AWP litigation will certainly lead to changes in PBM agreements for your AWP discounts. Also, be aware that you will most probably not receive full compensation as it is not accounted for in this settlement. As a result, monitor the AWP's in your claims to ensure that you are not paying more than the manufacturers' published prices. This is your best protection from this kind of AWP manipulation.**

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paper, Excel, text for legacy systems, or web based.

For information call Carol Stern at: (818)701-5438 or via email at [carol.stern@propharmaconsultants.com](mailto:carol.stern@propharmaconsultants.com) to order your copy with monthly/quarterly updates.

The image shows a screenshot of a spreadsheet titled "PRO PHARMA PHARMACEUTICAL CONSULTANTS, INC. J-CODE STANDARDIZED INJECTABLE FEE SCHEDULE". The spreadsheet lists various pharmaceutical products with columns for J-Code, Description, Brand, Strength, Unit, and Price. The header includes "PRO PHARMA PHARMACEUTICAL CONSULTANTS, INC." and "J-CODE STANDARDIZED INJECTABLE FEE SCHEDULE". Below the table, there are sections for "NOTES", "CONTACT INFORMATION", and "DISCLAIMER".

**Pro Pharma Pharmaceutical Consultants, Inc. has assisted Payers and Providers for over 23 years to Maintain Quality while Controlling Costs.**

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