

New heart failure medication process for prescribing sacubitril/valsartan (ENTRESTO™)

Attn: physicians and nurse practitioners

Health Canada has recently approved a new medication for the treatment of heart failure (HF) with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF). Approval was based on results from the PARADIGM-HF trial, which demonstrated that sacubitril/valsartan reduced the relative risk of cardiovascular death and hospitalization by 20% for patients with chronic HF (NYHA Class II-IV) and a left ventricular ejection fraction of <40%, despite optimally tolerated guideline-driven HF therapies.

There are very specific considerations for this medication that prescribers must be aware of, as well as significant drug interactions with current HF medications that could impact patient safety and health care utilization in BC.

In attempts to ensure appropriate utilization of sacubitril/valsartan, and to assess its impact on health care utilization in BC outside of the clinical trial setting, Cardiac Services BC and BC's Heart Failure Network experts have created processes for prescribers as outlined below (see the attached documents for full details):

1. **Assessing if your patient is eligible to be started on sacubitril/valsartan (ENTRESTO™)**
 - a. Prior to initiation of sacubitril/valsartan, please complete the eligibility criteria form. Patients should meet all the major criteria before drug initiation. Also take into consideration the minor criteria when making your decision.
 - b. Please complete all the elements in the data capture section of the form. This information will be used for quality assurance and improvement purposes, as well as to assess the drug's impact on health care utilization in BC.
 - c. Once a patient is assessed as eligible, please record the sacubitril/valsartan dose the patient was initiated on.
 - d. Fax the completed form to Cardiac Services BC at 604-875-7364, attention: Bonnie Catlin.
2. **Initiation, titration & monitoring recommendations for sacubitril/valsartan (ENTRESTO™) usage in British Columbia**
 - a. To ensure patient safety and standardization of clinical practice for prescribers from across the Province, please use the attached algorithm when assessing, initiating, titrating and monitoring a patient who has been prescribed sacubitril/valsartan.
3. **Sacubitril/valsartan (ENTRESTO™) summary & practical tips**
 - a. This information sheet is an education resource for prescribers and/or their staff.

Sacubitril/valsartan is currently undergoing the Fair PharmaCare review process in BC. The cost per day is \$7.80 (approximately \$240 per month).

To assist us in capturing the data needed to assess the real life impact of sacubitril/valsartan on patient outcomes and health care utilization in BC, we are asking you to incorporate the new Provincial processes into your patient care and office workflows.

If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Catlin, provincial heart failure clinical nurse specialist, at bonnie.catlin@phsa.ca or Dr. Sean Virani, heart failure physician lead, at Sean.Virani@phsa.ca

Thank you,



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