DUODOPA® – Government funding in Canada

Although the methods of coverage are different in each province/territory, DUODOPA® is government funded in Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta and the Yukon – but not in British Columbia (BC). In Ontario, Manitoba and the Yukon it is on the formulary with special access. In Alberta and Quebec, it is not on the formulary, but can be accessed on a case-by-case basis.

In Alberta, the decision to provide DUODOPA® on a case-by-case basis was made as a result of a briefing to the government received from a movement disorder specialist. This briefing was similar to that prepared by Dr. Martin McKeown, UBC Movement Disorder Clinic, and received by BC PharmaCare in December 2015. Based on the movement disorder specialist’s qualified recommendation, the Alberta government put a special access program in place.

In Ontario, DUODOPA® was added to the drug formulary through the Exceptional Access Program (EAP) in mid-2014. It has strict criteria and requires a physician’s recommendation.

In Quebec, DUODOPA® coverage is granted on a case-by-case basis; it is not listed on the list of medicament d’exception in Quebec but is available as a patient d’exception where the physician needs to complete a special form indicating the reasons why he/she wants to prescribe DUODOPA®. Many requests, if not all, have been approved by the Régie de l’assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ).

In Manitoba, since the summer of 2016, DUODOPA® has been covered and approved for the treatment of Parkinson’s disease in patients who meet the following criteria:

- Experience at least 25% of the waking day in the off state; AND
- Has severe disability while in the off-state as assessed by a Movement Disorder Specialist; AND
- Has received an adequate trial of maximally tolerated doses of levodopa, with demonstrated clinical response; AND
- Has failed adequate trials of other adjunctive medications (entacapone, dopamine agonists, monoamine oxidase-B (MAO-B) inhibitors) if not contraindicated and/or contrary to the clinical judgement of the prescriber.
- Requests for treatment initiation will be limited to the physicians practicing in the approved Centre of Excellence

Exclusion criteria (patients who meet the following criteria will NOT be considered):

- Patients who have a contraindication to insertion of a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tube
- Severe psychosis or dementia

British Columbians with advanced Parkinson’s disease would be pleased to get any form of access here in BC.
Also see:

- Ontario:
  *(DUODOPA is listed on the page as "approved" on June 16, 2014 for EAP)*

- Quebec:
  *(DUODOPA® listed in this newsletter)*

- Yukon: