



Preferred Drug List NEW DRUG REVIEW

Proprietary Name: Pristiq™

Common Name: Desvenlafaxine

PDL Category: Antidepressants - Selected SSRI's

<u>Comparable Products</u>	<u>Preferred Drug List/ Recommended Drug List Status</u>
Effexor XR (Venlafaxine)	Not Recommended
Cymbalta (Duloxetine)	Not Recommended

Summary

Indications and Usage: Treatment of major depressive disorder (MDD).

Mechanism of Action: Inhibits the reuptake of serotonin and norepinephrine

Dosage Forms: Tablets: 50 and 100mg

Recommended Dosage: 50mg once daily, with or without food

Common Adverse Drug Reactions: Nausea, dizziness, insomnia, hyperhidrosis, constipation, somnolence, decreased appetite, anxiety, male sexual function disorders

Contraindications: Hypersensitivity to desvenlafaxine succinate, venlafaxine, or any components of the compound, concomitant use with MAOIs.

Manufacturer: Wyeth Pharmaceuticals

Analysis: Desvenlafaxine is the major active metabolite of venlafaxine (Effexor). It is subject to several post-marketing commitments to the FDA including data from a relapse prevention study, a sexual dysfunction study, a pediatric study, and a study examining use at lower doses. In clinical studies, doses of 50-400 mg/day were shown to be effective, although no additional benefit was demonstrated at doses greater than 50 mg/day and adverse events and discontinuations were more frequent with higher doses. Pristiq™ demonstrated superiority over placebo in four studies using the Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HAM-D) and three studies using the Clinical Global Impressions Scale – Improvement (CGI-I). While there are no clinical trials comparing Pristiq™ with other SSRI's or SNRI's, there are studies comparing venlafaxine to SSRI's. Venlafaxine has been compared to fluoxetine in a multicenter study of 382 randomized patients. This comparative study showed no significant differences in efficacy, side effects, or outcomes based on HAM-D, MADRS, CGI, or Hopkins Symptom Checklist scores. Currently, there are other more cost effective treatment options available on the Preferred Drug List and Recommended Drug List that are approved for the treatment of major depressive disorder. Due to the fact that this is a mental health drug where there are no generic SNRI alternatives, it is recommended Pristiq™ be added to the Recommended Drug List as a non-recommended drug. It is also recommended that the DUR Commission consider quantity limits for this drug at 30 units per 30 days for both the 50mg and 100mg strengths since no benefit has been found with doses exceeding 50mg.

IME Recommendation:

<input type="checkbox"/> Preferred Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended Drug
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Preferred Drug	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Recommended Drug with Quantity Limits
<input type="checkbox"/> Preferred Drug with Conditions	