

RETRODUR INTERVENTION NOTICE: TETRABENAZINE (XENAZINE®)

September 29, 2014

Dear Prescriber,

The New York State Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Program retrospectively reviews the prescribing and dispensing of outpatient prescription medications in order to ensure that prescriptions are appropriate, medically necessary, and are not likely to result in adverse medical outcomes. The New York State Medicaid DUR Board has reviewed tetrabenazine (Xenazine®) utilization within the NY Medicaid program.

New York State Medicaid pharmacy claims data indicates that you have written prescription(s) for tetrabenazine (Xenazine®). Please consider the following information before prescribing tetrabenazine, as the DUR Program is concerned that there may be utilization of this medication that is not consistent with FDA approved labeling or Compendia-supported uses.

Tetrabenazine (Xenazine®) is FDA-approved or Compendia-supported for:

- Chorea associated with Huntington's disease
- Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome
- Tardive dyskinesia

The NYS DUR Board recommended an intervention at the prescriber level highlighting safety issues regarding the potential risk of depression and suicidality and reinforcing prescribing for covered uses only. Xenazine® is contraindicated in patients who are actively suicidal, and in patients with untreated or inadequately treated depression. There is a boxed warning associated with the risk of depression and suicidality. Additionally, Xenazine® is contraindicated in patients with impaired hepatic function and those taking monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) or reserpine. Caution should be used when Xenazine is co-administrated with neuroleptics (e.g., antipsychotic agents), strong inhibitors of cytochrome P450 2D6 (e.g., paroxetine, fluoxetine, quinidine) and drugs that prolong the QTc interval. Please consider the approved uses of this medication before prescribing for your patients.

In presenting this information to you, the DUR Program recognizes that safe and effective pharmacotherapy depends on the assessment of the patient's entire clinical profile. We ask that you consider the information provided regarding the prescribing of tetrabenazine (Xenazine®) therapy for your patients.

Thank you for your professional assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

John F. Naioti, Jr., R.Ph.
Manager, Drug Utilization Review Program