

Pharmacy & Therapeutics Update April 2016

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Formulary Addition

1. **Filgrastim-sndz (Zarxio®)** is a biosimilar granulocyte colony stimulating factor (G-CSF) which stimulates the production, maturation, and activation of neutrophils to increase both their migration and cytotoxicity. It has been added to the SHC formulary.
 - *Overview of biosimilar agents:*
 - *A biosimilar product is a biological product that is approved based on showing that it is highly similar to an already-approved biological product, known as a reference product.*
 - *The biosimilar also must show it has no clinically meaningful differences in terms of safety and effectiveness from the reference product.*
 - *Only minor differences in clinically inactive components are allowable*
 - *Biosimilar products are not interchangeable, and therefore cannot be automatically substituted for the reference product.*
 - *In the future, the FDA will likely design standards for interchangeability*

Formulary Restriction Change

1. **Intravenous Acetaminophen (Ofirmev®)** which has been studied for treatment of pain, and for reduction of opioid use following surgical procedures. A recent medication utilization review showed that Ofirmev use is still high and more than half of all orders do not meet restriction criteria. The SHC formulary restrictions were recommended to be changed as follows:

a. Patients who are NPO

OR

b. Post-op patients x24 hours only, after which they must qualify under criteria #1

In addition:

- All orders of IV acetaminophen will *automatically expire* after 24 hours
- All order sets will be reviewed and IV acetaminophen will be removed from them, with the exception of post-op order sets

Formulary Removal

1. **GI Cocktail** (aluminum hydroxide/magnesium hydroxide + simethicone + viscous lidocaine + hyoscyamine/atropine/scopolamine/phenobarbital)
 - a. Pharmacy will no longer assemble GI Cocktail Kits
 - b. Individual components are still available to order separately

Protocol Approvals

1. **Low Dose Ketamine in the ED (Nursing Procedure)**
 - a. This will replace the physician-administered protocol, which will be retired.