OPIOID AGONIST TREATMENT ALERT—MARCH 26, 2021

POTENTIAL TEMPORARY SHORTAGE of SLOW-RELEASE ORAL MORPHINE

Some pharmaceutical wholesalers are experiencing temporary shortages of specific strengths of slow-release oral morphine (SROM)—brand name Kadian. This may cause stock shortages at select pharmacies, particularly where there is a backlog of orders yet to be delivered from their wholesaler. As a result, a selection of your patients may be reporting that their pharmacies cannot fill their prescriptions.

The potential shortage includes the following dosage strengths and the corresponding DIN PINs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>PIN</th>
<th>DIN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kadian 100 mg capsule</td>
<td>22123348</td>
<td>2184451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kadian 50mg capsule</td>
<td>22123347</td>
<td>2184443</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prescribers

Prescribers can discuss options with pharmacies for achieving the prescribed dose of Kadian. If a pharmacy is able to use 10mg and 20mg to get the full dose for the patient, the prescriber could consider not sprinkling these capsules to facilitate this.

If Kadian supply cannot be obtained:

- Contact patient, determine treatment plan and document in patient’s medical record
- If the decision is made to switch to M-ESLON in the short term, cancel existing SROM (Kadian) prescription

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The conversion to M-ESLON is a temporary measure to address potential shortages of KADIAN. When the shortage is resolved, patients and providers should discuss the transition back to once-daily dispensed KADIAN.

We recognize the additional challenges shortages pose to your practices and patients and are committed to ongoing consultation with partners to help to mitigate these situations in the future.

Converting Patients to M-ESLON

- Convert and write a prescription for 12-hour sustained-release oral morphine brand name M-ESLON (same therapeutic dosage of KADIAN, but divided into 2 doses)
  - e.g., KADIAN 400 mg/day is equivalent to M-ESLON 200 mg BID
- The first dose will be DAILY WITNESSED AND DISPENSED and the second dose may be a take-home carry. Prescribers can consider witnessing of the second dose and indicate such on the prescription. However, take into consideration the hours of the pharmacy and logistics for the patient, as approximately 12 hours are needed between doses.
- See table below for information on available M-ESLON dosage strengths and DINs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>DIN</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M-Eslon 10mg capsule</td>
<td>02019930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-Eslon 15mg capsule</td>
<td>02177749</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Consult the 24/7 line for support as needed (778-945-7619; available 24/7 365 days a year)
- When the shortage is over, discuss transition back to once-daily dispensed/witnessed KADIAN

An example prescription is provided below. Note that clinician may consider witnessing for the 2nd dose:

**NOTE:** M-ESLON is eligible for coverage under PharmaCare Plans C, G, and I. Pharmacists should use the DIN to put through the prescription.

**Pharmacists**

In order to support patients on Kadian during this location-specific shortage, pharmacies are encouraged to:

1. Order 10mg and 20mg strength capsules.
2. Connect with a pharmacy that has supply of 50mg or 100 mg capsules to see if transferring supply is an option.
3. Place orders for 100mg or 50mg capsules as they become available.