



BRITISH COLUMBIA
CENTRE *for* EXCELLENCE
in HIV/AIDS

St. Paul's Hospital
613-1081 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC
Canada V6Z 1Y6

Tel 604.806.8477
Fax 604.806.8464
www.cfenet.ubc.ca

January 23, 2018

RE: Raltegravir 600 mg HD tablets (ISENTRESS™ HD) added to BC-CfE formulary

Dear Doctor:

Raltegravir **600 mg HD tablets** (ISENTRESS™ HD) for **1200 mg (2 x 600 mg) ONCE daily** use are now available through the BC-CfE Drug Treatment Program. Isentress HD™ is approved by Health Canada for use in combination with other antiretroviral (ARV) agents, for treatment of HIV-1 infection in adults who are ARV treatment naive.

Use of Raltegravir 1200mg (2 x 600 mg HD tablets) once daily may be considered in the following situations:

- *ARV initiation in treatment-naive persons:* as an alternative to preferred first-line therapy, where the regimen includes 3 fully active ARVs, and there are no drug interactions that may compromise raltegravir effectiveness.
- *Persons currently taking raltegravir 400 mg tablets:* where the patient is virologically suppressed (HIV RNA <40 copies/mL), the regimen includes 3 fully active ARVs, and there are no drug interactions that may compromise raltegravir effectiveness.
- *Other treatment-experienced persons:* Raltegravir 1200mg (2 x 600 mg HD tablets) once daily has not been evaluated in treatment-experienced persons. Exercise caution if there is a history of virologic failure and/or ARV resistance. Requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Dosing and administration:

- The recommended dose is raltegravir 1200 mg (2 x 600 mg HD tablets) ONCE daily.
- Tablets may be taken with or without food.
- Raltegravir 600 mg HD tablets should not be used with ANY antacid product or calcium carbonate-containing medicines at any time due to interference with drug absorption.
- Once-daily raltegravir use is contraindicated with potent enzyme inducers such as rifampin or phenytoin.
- Raltegravir 600 mg HD tablet is the only raltegravir product approved for once-daily dosing
- The 600 mg HD tablet is not interchangeable with the 400 mg tablet due to different absorption characteristics.

Evidence

In the ONCEMRK trial, raltegravir 1200mg (2 x 600 mg HD tablets) given once daily demonstrated non-inferior efficacy to standard raltegravir 400 mg twice daily in treatment-naive adults regardless of baseline HIV plasma viral load, when combined with emtricitabine-tenofovir DF. The formulation was generally well tolerated. The most commonly reported side effects were nausea (7.5%), abdominal pain (3%), and headache (3%). Laboratory abnormalities of at least Grade 3 severity were infrequent: AST 2.1%, ALT 2.2%, lipase 3.2%, creatine kinase 6.6%.

To date, there is no clinical trial information regarding use of once-daily raltegravir HD tablets in treatment experienced persons. Due to inadequate data, raltegravir 1200 mg (2 x 600 mg HD tablets) once daily should be used with caution in individuals with a history of treatment failure or extensive ARV resistance.

Prescription Requests

New prescriptions for raltegravir 600 mg HD tablets, including switches from raltegravir 400 mg tablets, require approval following submission of an HIV Drug Treatment Program Prescription Request Form (available at www.cfenet.ubc.ca).

Raltegravir dosage forms available on BC-CfE formulary:

- 400 mg tablet (Isentress™) for twice daily use;
- 600 mg tablet (Isentress™ HD) for 1200 mg (2 x 600 mg tablets) once daily use;
- 100 mg chewable tablet (Isentress™) for pediatric use;

None of the available raltegravir products are interchangeable.

For medication related questions, please contact the St. Paul's Hospital Ambulatory Pharmacy (1-888-511-6222 Monday to Friday 8:00 AM-5:00 PM).

Sincerely,



Val Montessori, MD, FRCPC
Co-Chair, Committee for Drug Evaluation and Therapy
BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS



Julio S.G. Montaner, MD, FRCPC, FCCP, FACP, FRSC
Director, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS

JSGM/kh