



State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services
New Jersey Drug Utilization Review Board

NEWSLETTER

Volume 32 No. 11

April 2022

TO: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Independent Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers- **For Action**
Health Maintenance Organizations – **For Information Only**

SUBJECT: **Clinical News from the New Jersey Drug Utilization Review Board (NJDURB)**

PURPOSE: To provide practitioners useful clinical information on ivermectin use that the NJDURB has determined may be helpful.

BACKGROUND: The NJDURB serves as an advisory board to the New Jersey Department of Human Services and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. The Board's responsibilities include recommending clinical standards based, in part, on the evaluation of prescription drug use by participants in the State's prescription drug programs. The Board is also responsible for disseminating information that the Board has determined would encourage appropriate drug utilization.

ACTION: The New Jersey Drug Utilization Review Board (NJDURB) recently completed a review of Stromectol® (ivermectin) drug utilization. The intent was to evaluate whether ivermectin was being prescribed as an off-label treatment for the SARS-CoV-2 infection.

The Board's review demonstrated a dramatic increase in the off-label use of ivermectin. Although the FDA approved ivermectin for the treatment of some parasitic worms, head lice and skin conditions, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the FDA and other professional organizations including, but not limited to the American Medical Association (AMA) and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) have expressed serious concerns regarding adverse clinical reactions to the unapproved use of this medication for the treatment of the SARS-CoV-2 infection.

The NJDURB has recommended the exclusion protocol for ivermectin use described below:

- Ivermectin shall be approved for FDA- approved indications only.
- Approval shall be for no more than six (6) 3 mg tablets in ninety (90) days.
- Higher doses shall be approved with evidence of medical necessity.

References:

1. Stromectol® prescribing information, Merck & Co. Inc., 2009
2. CDC Treatment Guidelines: https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/pdf/CDC_HAN_449.pdf

Providers are encouraged to share safety concerns or related side effects from the off-label use of ivermectin. Below are some helpful resources which may be used to educate patients.

Why You Should Not Use Ivermectin to Treat or Prevent COVID-19

<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/why-you-should-not-use-ivermectin-treat-or-prevent-covid-19>

AAPS Letter to AMA Re: Ivermectin and COVID

<https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-apha-ashp-statement-ending-use-ivermectin-treat-covid-19>

FAQ: COVID-19 and Ivermectin Intended for Animals

<https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/product-safety-information/faq-covid-19-and-ivermectin-intended-animals>

RETAIN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR FUTURE REFERENCE