

Date: August 21, 2008

Subject: DRC Recommendations to DCC and DHS

To: DHS, DCC, Dean's Office

From: Henry F. Simmons, Jr., MD, Ph.D.
Chairman DRC

At its 08/21/2008 meeting, the Drug Review Committee considered the potential toxicity and therapeutic roles of seven angiotensin receptor blockers in the management of adult patients with the indications appearing below.

ARBs under consideration

Candesartan [Atacand]
Eprosartan [Teveten]
Irbesartan [Avapro]
Losartan [Cozaar]
Olmesartan [Benicar]
Telmisartan [Micardis]
Valsartan [Diovan]

Indications under consideration in adults

Essential hypertension
High cardiovascular risk
Recent myocardial infarction
Heart failure
Nephropathy

Throughout its deliberations various Committee members remarked that there is a paucity of head to head data to use in making decisions regarding these drugs.

Based upon the bulk of the best available evidence pertaining to the aforementioned drugs the Committee concluded the following:

There is insufficient evidence to exclude completely any of the agents from therapeutic consideration on the basis of either toxicity or an increased frequency of adverse effects.

All of the agents are efficacious in reducing blood pressure.

At least two different ARBs should be available and at least one of them should be chosen from candesartan, losartan and valsartan.

Although not framed as a separate motion, it is the Committee's opinion that an alternative to losartan should be available to African-American patients.