Criteria Based Consultation Prescribing Program

CRITERIA FOR DRUG COVERAGE

Dronabinol (MARINOL®)

Non-formulary **dronabinol (Marinol®)** will be covered on the prescription drug benefit when the following criteria are met:

- Prescribed for treatment of anorexia associated with weight loss in patients with AIDS  
  - AND -  
- Prescribed by or in consultation with an IDC clinician  
  - OR -  
- Prescribed for treatment of nausea associated with cancer chemotherapy in patients who have failed to adequately respond to, are intolerant of, or use is contraindicated in the following 5 medication classes per the oncology antiemetic CDTM:  
  5HT3 receptor antagonist, dopamine antagonist, prokinetic agent, glucocorticoid, and antipsychotic.
- Dose Change Only: Patient previously met criteria and is already taking the drug.

Notes:

- **COST:** Dronabinol costs approximately $425 - 500/month more than ondansetron.
- **PLACE IN THERAPY:** * Only corticosteroids (dexamethasone, prednisolone, methylprednisolone) and progesterone analogs (megestrol acetate) have proven benefit in palliation of cancer related anorexia-cachexia. Megestrol was found to be superior to dronabinol for improving appetite and weight in one comparative study for this use. Recommended dose of megestrol acetate is 160 mg to 800 mg/day.