

The \$6 Million Drug Claim

New treatments for rare diseases are changing the lives of patients, but the price can reach millions of dollars for a single person.

In this recent article published in the NY Times, we learned about a very expensive drug called Strensiq, which is used to treat a rare genetic condition called Hypophosphatasia and has cost some health plans \$2 million a year per adult. The article describes a family (mother and two children ages 23 and 18) all taking Strensiq with a potential annual cost of \$6 million in 2018. The article describes that the mother had learned that she had the condition when she was undergoing unrelated tests a few years ago, and then her children were tested.

Hypophosphatasia (HPP) is a rare, genetic, progressive, metabolic disease characterized by defective bone mineralization that can lead to rickets and softening of the bones that results in skeletal abnormalities. It can also cause complications such as profound muscle weakness with loss of mobility, seizures, pain, respiratory failure and premature death. Severe forms of HPP affect an estimated one in 100,000 newborns, but milder cases, such as those that appear in childhood or adulthood, may occur more frequently.

The Sequoia Branch Program Solution

The Sequoia Branch Program has experience in complex high cost cases like this to assist in risk mitigation. Managing specialty pharmacy treatments and costs can be challenging for payers given all the variables and complexities. Having the visibility and expertise with a targeted prior authorization process and ongoing clinical monitoring is key. Understanding safe and efficacious uses of the drug treatments at the beginning of the proposed therapy is critical. Treatment outcomes are also key to understand whether the pharmacy treatments are meeting the care plan objectives.

The Sequoia Branch Program provides access to expert clinical pharmacists and coding specialists that can review high cost specialty claims to ensure that accepted clinical protocols are followed to support effective outcomes and mitigate risk.

Contact the Branch Program team today to see how we can assist with high touch value added solutions: 732-SEQ-UOIA (732-737-8642) or Branch@sequoiaris.com