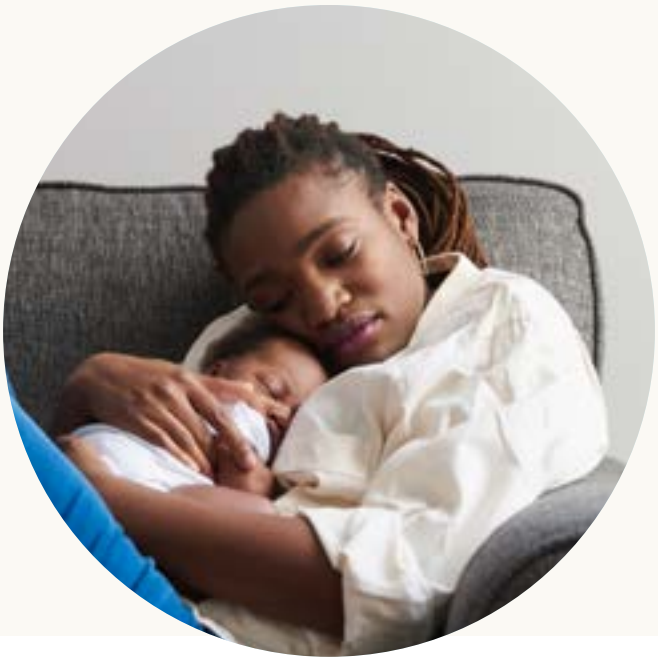
Optum Rx®

Pipeline insights summary

Drugs to watch.



Oral

Zuranolone: Brand name: Zurzuvae™ FDA decision: August 4, 2023

Zuranolone, from Biogen/Sage Therapeutics, has been evaluated as a rapid-acting, once-daily, oral treatment in adults with major depressive disorder and postpartum depression.

On August 4, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved zuranolone as the first oral medication indicated to treat postpartum depression (PPD) in adults. It will be marketed as Zurzuvae.™ The FDA did not approve it for use with major depressive disorder at this time.

More than 21 million U.S. adults experienced a major depressive episode in 2020. Postpartum depression is estimated to affect approximately 13% of women who have given birth in the U.S.

Zuranolone would offer a fast acting antidepressant, with benefits seen as early as day three of use. Most current antidepressants now require several weeks before patients begin to see a benefit.

There is a strong unmet need for rapid and effective relief of postpartum depression symptoms. Still, there are many generic alternatives in this class, with well-understood safety and durability data.

Injectible

Avacincaptad pegol: Brand name Zimura® Expected FDA decision: August 19, 2023

Zimura is from the manufacturer IVERIC Bio and is under review for the treatment of geographic atrophy, a form of age-related macular degeneration that causes vision loss in the center of the field of vision.

Currently, there is one other FDA-approved treatments for geographic atrophy, Syfovre™ (pegcetacoplan injection). We recently reviewed pegcetacoplan here.

If approved, Zimura would be a direct competitor to Syfovre. For reference, the wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) for Syfovre is $2,190 per month.

Injectible

Lebrikizumab: Brand name: TBD
Expected FDA decision: September 2023

Eli Lilly's lebrikizumab is under review for the treatment of adult and adolescent patients with moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis (also called eczema).

Atopic dermatitis affects nearly 10 million children and about 16.5 million adults in the U.S.

In trials, patients taking lebrikizumab showed significantly improved skin clearing, better sleep, and improved safety compared to placebo.

Lebrikizumab is administered via injection less frequently (once every two or four weeks) than existing comparators (e.g., Dupixent® (dupilumab), is injected every other week).

For reference, the WAC for Dupixent is approximately $41,000 per year.

You can access the full report here.

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