

Musculoskeletal and Rheumatological Agents Spending Outlook

Projected trend

Year	2009	2010	2011
Utilization increase	0% to 1%	4% to 5%	2% to 3%
Price and mix increase	7% to 8%	9% to 10%	15% to 16%
Annual total	7% to 9%	13% to 15%	17% to 19%

*Projected change in drug spending on a plan ingredient-cost basis

OSTEOPOROSIS

- According to the National Institutes of Health, an estimated 44 million Americans have been diagnosed with or at risk of developing osteoporosis
- Once-weekly and once monthly oral bisphosphonates, such as alendronate (Fosamax), Boniva®, and Actonel®, continue to account for over three-fourths of total utilization among osteoporosis drugs, with alendronate still the market leader.
- A new monoclonal antibody for the treatment and prevention of osteoporosis, denosumab, may be introduced in 2010. Denosumab inhibits the activity of osteoclasts, the cells responsible for breakdown of bone, by inhibiting the activation of the nuclear factor kappa B pathway.

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (RA)

- Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a common condition affecting more than 2 million Americans, many of whom are candidates for treatment with an existing biologic agent, such as Enbrel, Humira, or Rituxan. These biologic agents have the potential to achieve disease remission to an extent not previously possible.
- Biologics are being used much earlier and more frequently in RA treatment, as results from clinical trials continue to demonstrate their excellent efficacy and safety profiles.

Trend predictions

Key developments that are likely to shape drug trend for osteoporosis and rheumatological drugs over the next 3 years:

- Introduction of interleukin-6 antagonism as a new treatment strategy for RA
- Increased use of both existing and pipeline biologics, such as Enbrel®, Humira®, Orenicia®, Rituxan®, golimumab, and tocilizumab, for the treatment of RA
- Introduction of novel drugs for the treatment of gout, including at least one new high-cost injectable biologic agent
- Introduction of denosumab for the treatment and prevention of osteoporosis, as well as for use in reducing the risk of skeletal events in patients with metastatic cancer
- Multiple new selective estrogen-receptor modulators (SERMs) for the treatment/prevention of osteoporosis and the prevention of breast cancer
- Introduction of one or more new injectable biologics for the treatment of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)

Trend drivers: New biologics for RA and new drugs for the treatment of osteoporosis, gout, and SLE

Trend moderator: Generics for Fosamax and Fosamax Plus D® gaining market share.