

**Clinical Services Branch  
Health Services Division**

March 29, 2006

Dr. L. S. Erlick  
Chair/WSIB Steering Committee  
Ontario Medical Association  
525 University Ave, Suite 300  
Toronto, ON M5G 2K7

Dear Doctor Erlick,

**RE LYRICA: Status in WSIB Drug Benefit Program**

In case you receive any enquiries I would like to share with you the status of Pregabalin in the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) Drug Benefit Program

**Lyrica (Pregabalin) has not been added to WSIB Formularies due to the following reasons:**

**Although pregabalin seems to have similar efficacy to gabapentin across studies in neuropathic pain, comparative efficacy has not been established in head to head trials. As well, it is not clear whether the current studies can be extrapolated to other types of neuropathic pain. Pregabalin may have certain advantages over gabapentin such as a quicker onset and shorter titration period however pregabalin has been reported to cause weight gain and peripheral edema in neuropathic pain studies of up to 12 weeks duration. Head-to-head studies are required to determine if there are any real differences between pregabalin and gabapentin in efficacy and safety.**

**Entitlement to pregabalin can be considered on an individual case by case assessment. Medical literature will be reviewed on a regular basis and formulary status will be reconsidered when substantive new evidence is available.**

*Acknowledgment:*

*It is recognized that the prescribing physician uses clinical experience and individual needs of the patient however, "...the conscientious, explicit and judicious use of current best practice in making decisions about the care of individual patients...means integrating individual clinical expertise with the best available external evidence from systematic research."*

*Dr. David Sackett, 1996.*

Please do not hesitate to contact me at the above number if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Catherine Painvin, MD, MSc.  
Director  
Clinical Services Branch

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