Pharmacy & Therapeutics Update

From the August meeting of the SHC Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee
For further information, contact Dana Radman, pharmacy manager and committee secretary:
DRadman@stanfordmed.org

Added to the formulary:

- **Ramucirumab (Cyramza®)** is a fully humanized monoclonal antibody that targets VEGF receptor 2 which is FDA approved for advanced or metastatic gastric cancer. It is one of the first angiogenesis agents to be used as single drug therapy and shown survival benefits in patients with advanced gastric or gastro-oesophageal junction adenocarcinoma that progressed after first-line chemotherapy. The most common adverse events associated ramucirumab is hypertension, diarrhea, headache, hyponatremia, and proteinuria. There are no known drug interactions.
- **Vedolizumab (Entyvio®)** is an integrin receptor antagonist indicated for adult ulcerative colitis (UC) and adult Crohn's disease (CD) in patients who have an inadequate response with, lose response to, or are intolerant to TNF blockers, immune-modulators or corticosteroids. The most common adverse reactions with vedolizumab are nasopharyngitis, headache, and arthralgia. Serious reactions included infusion-related reactions, infections, elevated transaminases and/or bilirubin, and malignancies. Although no cases have been observed, risk of PML cannot be ruled out. Because of the potential for increased risk of PML and other infections, avoid the concomitant use of vedolizumab with natalizumab (Tysabri®) and TNF blockers. Live vaccines may be administered concurrently with vedolizumab only if the benefits outweigh the risks. There will be a 6 month medication use evaluation regarding the utilization of this drug due to its high cost.

Removed from the formulary:

- None