

Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY*

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Marcus J. Molinaro
County Executive



Henry M. Kurban, MD, MBA, MPH, FACPM
Commissioner

BARRIERS TO ACCESS: **Atovaquone (Mepron) for the Treatment of Babesiosis.** **Wednesday, June 1, 2016 - 1 pm**

As we enter tick-borne disease season, the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health alerts providers of hurdles patients may face when trying to obtain atovaquone (Mepron), a medication used commonly in combination with azithromycin for treatment of babesiosis.

- Atovaquone, even in its generic form, is a very expensive medication. The full price for a ten day course of treatment can cost more than \$1000.
- Uninsured patients and patients whose insurance does not cover atovaquone should be made aware of the GlaxoSmithKline prescription assistance program: <https://www.bridgestoaccess.com/>
- Insurers frequently have prior authorization requirements for this medication. Providers should be prepared to provide insurance companies with laboratory proof of infection to enable patients to get insurance coverage for this medication.
- Often atovaquone is listed in the formulary as a treatment for malaria, and may automatically be denied for babesiosis. Healthcare Provider offices may need to contact the insurance company to see if the denial can be reversed.
- Providers should consider the alternative treatment protocol of Clindamycin 600mg orally 3 times a day in combination with Quinine 650mg orally 3 times a day in situations where options to obtain atovaquone have been exhausted.

Incidences of patient inability to obtain access to atovaquone should be reported to Alison Kaufman at (845) 486-3425.

***Health Alert**- conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention; **Health Advisory**- provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action; **Health Update**- provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

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