

## **DEAR PRESCRIBER LETTER**

### **APPENDIX B**

### **IMPORTANT DRUG WARNING**

Dear Prescriber:

**There is important safety information you need to know before prescribing AMPYRA.**

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved AMPYRA<sup>®</sup> (dalfampridine) Extended Release Tablets, 10 mg *as a treatment to improve walking in patients with multiple sclerosis (MS) This was demonstrated by an increase in walking speed.* FDA has determined that a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) is necessary to ensure that the benefits of AMPYRA outweigh the risk of seizures. AMPYRA (dalfampridine) has the same active ingredient as fampridine, 4-aminopyridine, or 4-AP.

AMPYRA is contraindicated in patients with:

- History of seizures
- Moderate or severe renal impairment

#### **Risk of Seizure with AMPYRA**

- **Clinical studies indicate doses greater than 10 mg twice daily increase the risk of seizure.**
- Patients with a history of seizures should not be prescribed AMPYRA.
- If the patient experiences a seizure, discontinue AMPYRA and promptly report the event to Acorda Therapeutics, Inc. at 1-800-367-5109 or to the FDA's MedWatch reporting system at 1-800-FDA-1088.

#### **Renal Impairment**

AMPYRA is eliminated through the kidneys primarily as unchanged drug. Patients with renal impairment may require a dose lower than 10 mg twice daily. AMPYRA is available only as a 10 mg tablet which cannot be divided. Therefore, AMPYRA is contraindicated in patients with moderate or severe renal impairment, as defined by creatinine clearance 50 mL/min or less. The following formula can be used to estimate creatinine clearance (multiply by 0.85 for women):

$$CrCl = \frac{(140 - age) \times weight(kg)}{SerumCr(mg / dl) \times 72}$$

Because elderly patients are likely to have decreased renal function, it is particularly important to know the estimated creatinine clearance in these patients before initiating AMPYRA treatment.

#### **AMPYRA Dispensing/Prescribing Information**

Prescriptions for AMPYRA are processed through the AMPYRA Patient Support Center. AMPYRA is dispensed only through specialty pharmacies, the Department of Veterans

Affairs, and one highly controlled HMO system (Kaiser Permanente). **AMPYRA is not available through retail pharmacies.**

- The approved dose of AMPYRA is 10 mg twice daily, approximately 12 hours apart, with or without food. This dose should not be exceeded. **No additional benefit was demonstrated at doses greater than 10 mg twice daily and adverse events and discontinuations were more frequent at higher doses.**
- It is important to discontinue pharmacy-compounded formulations of the drug prior to initiating therapy with AMPYRA.
- It is important that a pharmacy-compounded formulation of the drug (4-aminopyridine, 4-AP, fampridine) not be substituted for AMPYRA due to the unknown pharmacokinetics of compounded formulations and the potential for overdose and increased risk of seizures.
- It is important that AMPYRA not be taken in addition to a compounded formulation of the drug (4-aminopyridine, 4-AP, fampridine).
- AMPYRA is available in 10 mg strength extended release tablets.
- Tablets should be taken whole. They should not be scored, divided, crushed, chewed or dissolved in fluids.

**You should counsel the patients about:**

- The risks and benefits of AMPYRA
- The importance of taking AMPYRA as prescribed and in particular not to double-dose if a dose is missed
- The need for patients to notify you about all medications they are taking
- The importance of immediately discontinuing AMPYRA if a seizure occurs and reporting the event to Acorda at 1-800-367-5109 or to the FDA's MedWatch reporting system at 1-800-FDA-1088

**Please carefully review the enclosed AMPYRA Prescribing Information and the Medication Guide with particular attention to the safety and prescribing information.**

The patient Medication Guide provides detailed safety information written in easy to understand language and is to be given to a patient every time an AMPYRA prescription is filled. The Medication Guide can be used to counsel your patients about the safe use of AMPYRA.

All of the enclosed materials are also available for download from [www.AMPYRA.com](http://www.AMPYRA.com) and from your Acorda Therapeutics representative or field-based Medical Affairs staff. If you have any questions, please contact Acorda Therapeutics Medical Information Services at 1-800-367-5109.

This letter is not intended to describe all important information associated with AMPYRA use. Complete information about the use of AMPYRA can be found in the accompanying AMPYRA Prescribing Information.

Health care professionals should report any adverse events suspected to be associated with AMPYRA use to one of the following:

- Acorda Therapeutics, Inc., Hawthorne, NY 10532; 1-800-367-5109.

- FDA's MedWatch reporting system
  - By phone (1-800-FDA-1088)
  - By facsimile (1-800-FDA-0178)
  - Online (<https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/medwatch/>)
  - By mail (using the MedWatch Voluntary Reporting form 3500 to the FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program: Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852-9787).

Sincerely,

Thomas Wessel, MD, PhD  
Chief Medical Officer

Douglas Kargman, MD, MS  
Vice President – Drug Safety