Ravicti® (glycerol phenylbutyrate) – Expanded indication

- On December 27, 2018, Horizon Pharma announced the FDA approval of Ravicti (glycerol phenylbutyrate) oral liquid, for use as a nitrogen-binding agent for chronic management of patients with urea cycle disorders (UCDs) who cannot be managed by dietary protein restriction and/or amino acid supplementation alone.
    - Ravicti was previously approved in patients 2 months of age and older for this indication.
    - Ravicti must be used with dietary protein restriction and, in some cases, dietary supplements (eg, essential amino acids, arginine, citrulline, protein-free calorie supplements).
    - Ravicti is not indicated for the treatment of acute hyperammonemia in patients with UCDs because more rapidly acting interventions are essential to reduce plasma ammonia levels.
    - The safety and efficacy of Ravicti for the treatment of N-acetylglutamate synthase deficiency has not been established.

- UCD is a rare genetic disorder that affects approximately 1 in 35,000 live births in the U.S. It is caused by an enzyme deficiency in the urea cycle, a process that is responsible for converting excess ammonia from the bloodstream and ultimately removing it from the body. People with a UCD experience hyperammonemia that can then reach the brain and cause irreversible brain damage, coma or death. UCD symptoms may first occur at any age depending on the severity of the disorder, with more severe defects presenting earlier in life.

- The approval of Ravicti's expanded indication was based on a study in 16 pediatric patients 2 months of age and younger with UCDs. Of the 16 patients, 16, 14, 12, 6, and 3 patients were treated for 1, 3, 6, 12, and 18 months, respectively.
    - Ravicti-treated patients maintained stable ammonia levels relative to their pre-study enrollment.

- In addition to the expanded indication, the contraindication for use of Ravicti in patients 2 months of age and younger was removed from the drug label.

- The recommended dose of Ravicti is based on body surface area. In patients less than 2 years of age, Ravicti should be given orally in 3 or more equally divided dosages, each rounded up to the nearest 0.1 mL.
    - Patients should be instructed to take Ravicti with food or formula and to administer directly into the mouth via oral syringe or dosing cup.
    - Ravicti should be prescribed by a physician experienced in the management of UCDs.
    - Refer to the Ravicti drug label for additional pediatric and adult dosing recommendations.