Do You Favor Requiring Everyone to Have Health Insurance, With Government Helping Those Who Can't Afford It? Strongly favor Somewhat favor 30% 30% 27% 50% 38% 25% Independent Democrat Republican Note: Based on a 2007 survey of 3,501 adults aged ≥19 years Source: Commonwealth Fund Biennial Health Insurance Survey



Brief summary of prescribing information. INDICATIONS AND USAGE CUBICIN (daptomycin for injection) is indicated for the following infections (see also DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION and CLINICAL STUDIES in full prescribing information): Complicated skin and skin structure infections (cSSSI) caused by susceptible isolates of the following Gram-positive microorganisms: Staphylococcus aureus (including methiculiin-resistant isolates), Streptococcus progenes, S. aga-lactae, S. dysgalactae subsp equisimilis, and Enterococcus facatalis (van-comycin-susceptible isolates only). Combination therapy may be clinically indicated if the documented or presumed pathogens include Gram-negative or angenotic progenisms. Staphylococcus aureus indicated methods and the subspace of the indicated if the documented or présumed pathogens indiúde Gram-negative or anaerobic organisms. **Staphylococcus aureus bloodstream infec-tions** (bacteremia), including those with right-sided infective endocarditis, caused by methicillin-susceptible and methicillin-resistant isolates. Combi-nation therapy may be clinically indicated if the documented or presumed pathogens include Gram-negative or anaerobic organisms. The efficacy of UBICIN in patients with left-sided infective endocarditis due to *S. aureus* has not been demonstrated. The clinical trial of CUBICIN in patients with *S. aureus* bloodstream infections included limited data from patients with left-sided infective endocarditis; outcomes in these patients were poor (see **CLINICAL STUDIES** in full prescribing information). CUBICIN has not been studied in natients with presthetic valve endocarditis are left-sided infective endocarditis; outcomes in these patients were poor (see CLINICAL STUDIES in full prescribing information). CUBICIN has not been studied in patients with prosthetic valve endocarditis or meningitis. Patients with persisting or relapsing S. aureus infection or poor clinical response should have repeat blood cultures. If a culture is positive for S. aureus, MIC susceptibility testing of the isolate should be performed using a standardized procedure, as well as diagnostic evaluation to rule out sequestered foci of infection (see PRECAUTIONS). CUBICIN is not indicated for the treatment of pneumonia. Appropriate specimens for microbiological examination should be obtained in order to isolate and identify the cusative pathogens and to determine their susceptibility to daptomycin. Empiric therapy may be initiated while awaiting test results. Antimicrobial therapy should be used only to treat or prevent infections that are proven or strongly suspected to be caused by susceptible bacterial drugs, CUBICIN should be used only to treat or prevent infections that are proven or strongly suspected to be caused by susceptible bacterial thrapy. In the absence of such data, local epidemiology and susceptibility patterns may contribute to the empiric selection or modifying antibacterial thrapy. In the absence of Such data, local epidemiology and susceptibility patterns with known hypersensitivity to daptomycin.

reported with use of nearly all antibacterial agents, including CUB/CIN, and may range in severity from mild diarrhea to fatal colitis. Treatment with antibacterial agents alters the normal fora of the colon, leading to overgrowth of *C. difficile, C. difficile* produces toxins A and B, which con-tribute to the development of CDAD. Hypertoxin-producing strains of *C. difficile* cause increased morbidity and mortality, since these infections can be refractory to antimicrobial therapy and may require colectomy. CDAD must be considered in all patients who present with diarrhea fol-lowing antibiotic use. Careful medical history is necessary because CDAD has been reported to occur over 2 months after the administration of antibacterial agents. If CDAD is suspected or confirmed, ongoing anti-biotic use not directed against *C. difficile* may need to be discontinued. Appropriate Huid and electrolyte management, protein supplementation, antibiotic treatment of *C. difficile*, and surgical evaluation should be insti-tuted as clinically indicated.

Performance of the second structure of the second stru PRECAUTIONS General The use of antibiotics may promote the selection those treated with comparator (N=24). In the *S. aureus* bacteremia/endo-carditis study, 3 (2.6%) CUBICIN-treated patients, including 1 with trauma

associated with a heroin overdose and 1 with spinal cord compression, had an elevation in CPK >500 U/L with associated musculoskeletal symptoms. None of the patients in the comparator group had an elevation in CPK >500 U/L with associated musculoskeletal symptoms. CUBICIN should be discontinued in patients with unexplained signs and symptoms of myopa-thy in conjunction with CPK elevation > 1,000 U/L (-5X ULN), or in patients without reported symptoms who have marked elevations in CPK >2,000 U/L (21X ULN). In addition, consideration should be given to temporarily suspending agents associated with rhabdomyolysis, such as HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, in patients receiving CUBICIN In 14 days, no evidence of nerve conduction deficits or symptoms of peripheral neuropathy was observed. In a small number of patients in Phase 1 and Phase 2 studies at doses up to 6 mg/kg, administration of CUBICIN was associated with decreases in nerve conduction velocity and with adverse events (eg, pares-thesias, Bell's palsy) possibly reflective of peripheral neuropathy. Nerve conduction deficits were also detected in a similar number of com-parator subjects in these studies. In Phase 3 actSIS and community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) studies, 7/989 (0.7%) CUBICIN-treated patients sias. New or worsening peripheral neuropathy was not diagnosed in any of these patients. In the *S. aureus* bacteremia/endocarditis trial, a total of 11/120 (9.2%) CUBICIN-treated patients had treatment-emergent adverse events related to the peripheral neuropathy. All of the events were classified as mild to moderate in severity, most were of short duration and resolved duning continued treatment with CUBICIN on were likely due to an alternative etiology. In animals, effects of CUBICIN on peripheral neuro baserved (ese **AINMAL PHARIMACOLOGY** in full prescribing information). erdose and 1 with spinal cord compression, had resolved during continued treatment with CUBICIN or were likely due to an alternative etiology. In animals, effects of CUBICIN on peripheral nerve were observed (see ANIMAL PHARMACDLOBY in full prescribing information). Therefore, physicians should be alert to the possibility of signs and symp-toms of neuropathy in patients receiving CUBICIN. **Drug Interactions Warfarin** Concomitant administration of CUBICIN (6 mg/kg q24h for 5 days) and warfarin (25 mg single oral dose) had no significant effect on the pharmacokinetics of either drug, and the INR was not significant yaltered. As experience with the concomitant administration of CUBICIN and warfarin is limited, anticoagulant activity in patients receiving CUBICIN and warfarin should be monitored for the first several days after initiating therave with pharmacokinetics of either drug, and the INR was not significantly altered. As experience with the concomitant administration of CUBICIN and warfarin is limited, anticoagulant activity in patients receiving CUBICIN and warfarin should be monitored for the first several days after initiating therapy with CUBICIN (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOCK), Drug-Drug Interactions in full prescribing information). *HIMG-CoA Reductase Initibitors* Inhibitors of HMG-CoA reductase may cause myopathy, which is manifested as muscle pain or weakness associated with elevated levels of CPK. There were no reports of skeletal myopathy in a placebo-controlled Phase 1 trait in which 10 healthy subjects on stable simusatatin therapy were treated concurrently with CUBICIN (4 mg/kg q24h) for 14 days. In the Phase 3. *aureus* bacteremia/endocarditis trial, 5/22 CUBICIN-treated patients who received prior or concomitant therapy with an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor developed CPK elevations >5000 UL. Experience). Drug-Laboratory Test Interactions should be given to temporarily suspending use of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors and CUBICIN in patients is limited; therefore, consideration should be given to temporarily suspending use of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors in patients receiving CUBICIN (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS, Post-Marketing Experience). Drug-Laboratory Test Interactions** There are no reported drug-laboratory test interactions. Carcinogenesis, **Mutagenesis**, **Impairment of Fertility** Long-term carcinogenic potential of daptomycin. However, neither mutagenic nor clastogenic potential of daptomycin. However, neither mutagenic nor clastogenic potential of daptomycin. However, neither dualuat the carcinogenic potential of agenomycin did not affect the fertility or reproductive performance of male and female rats when administered intravenously at doses up to 150 mg/kg/day, which is approximately 9 times the estimated human dose, respectively, on a body surface area basis, have revealed no evidence of harm to the fetus due to daptomycin. There are

nursing women. **Pediatric Use** Safety and efficacy of CUBICIN in patients under the age of 18 have not been established. **Geriatric Use** of the 534 patients treated with CUBICIN in Phase 3 controlled clinical trials of cSSSI, 27.0% were 65 years of age or older and 12.4% were 75 years of age or older. Of the 120 patients treated with CUBICIN in the Phase 3 controlled clinical trial of *S. aureus* bactreemia/endocarditis, Jower clinical suc-cess rates were seen in patients 265 years of age compared with those <65 years of age. In addition, treatment-emergent adverse events were more common in patients 265 years of age compared with those <65 years of age. In addition, treatment-emergent adverse events were more common in patients 265 years of age compared with those <65 years of age. In addition, treatment-emergent adverse events were more common in patients 265 years of age compared with trates in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared with rates in the clinical trials of a drug and may not reflect the rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug and may not reflect the rates observed in the clinical trials of adverse events reported in Cubist-sponsored Phase 1, 2, and 3 clinical studies were described as mild or moderate in intensity. In Phase 3 cSSSI trials, CUBICIN was discontinued in 17/558 (2.8%) patients due to an adverse event, while comparator was discontinued in 17/558 (2.6%) patients, In the *S. aureus* bacteremia/endocarditis trial, sci-son frame-negative infections and nonservous Gram-negative linefcotins us Gram-negative infections and nonservous Gram-negative linefcotis-nulded halong that follow-up. Gram-negative infections included cholangitis, alcoholic pancreatitis, sternal stoenvelitis-rendiat linitial gentamic for 4 days. Events were reported during treatment and during early and late follow-up. Gram-negative infections included cholangitis, alcoholic pancreatitis, sternal stoenvelitis/mediast-initis, bowel infraction, recurrent Crohn's disease, recurrent line sepsi

pepsia 0.9% and 2.5%; *General disorders*: injection site reactions 5.8% and 7.7%; fever 1.9% and 2.5%; *Nervous system disorders*: headache 5.4% and 5.4%; insomnia 4.5% and 5.4%; diziness 2.2% and 2.0%; *Skin/subcutaneous disorders*: rash 4.3% and 3.8%; *Diagnostic investigations*: abnormal liver function tests 3.0% and 1.6%; elevated CPK 2.8% and 1.4%; hypertension 1.4% and 0.5%; *Vascular disorders*: nypotension 2.4% and 1.4%; hypertension 1.4% and 0.5%; *Vascular disorders*: nina 1.1%; and 2.3%; *Respiratory disorders*: dyspnea 2.1% and 1.6%; *Musculaskeltal disorders*: limb pain 1.5% and 2.0%; arthralgia 0.9% and 1.6%; *Musculaskeltal disorders*: limb pain 1.5% and 2.0%; and 1.6%; *Musculaskeltal disorders*: limb pain 1.5% and 2.0%; and 1.6%; *Interactions* 2.1% and 1.6%; *Interactions* 1.1 % and 2.1%; or an attack of a stable constraints of the constraint of the constraints of the constr 0.9% and 2.5%: General disorders: injection site reactions 5.8% ment groups in the *S. aureus* bacteremia/endocardilis study were as follows: Infections and infestations: 65 (54.2%) and 56 (48.3%); urinary tract infection NOS 8 (6.7%) and 11 (9.5%); osteomyelitis NOS 7 (5.8%) and 7 (6.0%); sepsis NOS 6 (5.0%) and 3 (2.6%); bacteraemia 6 (5.0%) and 0 (5%); neumonia NOS 4 (3.3%) and 9 (7.8%); *Gastrointestinal disorders*: 60 (50.0%) and 68 (58.6%); *diarrhoea* NOS 14 (11.7%) and 21 (18.1%); vomiting NOS 14 (11.7%) and 15 (12.9%); constipation 13 (10.8%) and 14 (12.1%); nausea 12 (10.0%) and 23 (19.8%); *abdominal pain* NOS 7 (5.8%) and 4 (5.2%); gastrointestinal haemorthage NOS 2 (1.7%) and 6 (5.2%); *General disorders and administration site conditions*: 53 (44.2%) and 69 (55.2%); oedema peripheral 8 (6.7%) and 7 (6.0%); oedema NOS 8 (6.7%) and 10 (8.6%); *chest pain* 8 (6.7%) and 7 (6.0%); oedema NOS 8 (6.7%) and 10 (8.6%); *chest pain* 8 (6.7%) and 7 (6.0%); oedema NOS 8 (6.7%) and 10 (8.6%); *chest pain* 8 (6.7%) and 7 (1.3.8%); prexia 8 (6.7%) and 10 (8.6%); *chest pain* 8 (6.7%) and 7 (10.8%); *prexia* 8 (6.7%) and 43 (37.1%); *pharyoglaryogeal pain* 10 (8.3%) and 2 (1.7%); *pleural effusion* 7 (5.8%) and 8 (6.9%); *coupl* 4 (3.3%) and 7 (6.0%); *dyspnoea* 4 (3.3%) and 6 (5.2%); *skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders*: 36 (30.0%) and 40 (34.5%); *rash NOS* 8 (6.7%) and 1 (6.8%); *puritus* 7 (5.8%) and 6 (5.2%); *erythema* 6 (5.0%) and 6 (5.2%); *weating liceraesed* 6 (5.0%) and 10 (8.6%); *rhartraigia* 4 (3.3%) and 11 (9.2%) *back pain* 8 (6.7%) and 10 (8.6%); *thratigia* 4 (3.3%) and 11 (9.2%), *back pain* 8 (6.7%) and 10 (8.6%); *thratigia* 4 (3.3%) and 11 (9.2%), *back pain* 8 (6.7%) and 10 (8.6%); *thratigia* 3 (28.4%); *biod creative phosphokinase increased* 8 (6.7%) and 1 (12.3%); *bioditic disorders*: 55 (29.2%) and 28 (27.6%); *heatobalism and nu-trition disorders*: 32 (26.7%) and 32 (27.6%); *heatobalism* 30 (26.5%) and 33 (28.4%); *biod creative phosphokinase increased* 8 (6.7%) and 1 (12.9%); *biod creative phosphokinase increased* 8 (6.7%) and 1 (12.9% Were nighter in CubicIN-treated patients wind in Comparison-treated patients. These differences were due to lack of therapeutic effectiveness of CUBICN in the treatment of CAP in patients experiencing these adverse events (see INDICATIONS AND USAGE). The incidence of decreased renal function based on creatinine clearance levels in CUBICN 6 mg/kg (N=120) and comparator (N=116) was as follows: Days 2 to 4, 296 (2.1%) and 6/90 (6.7%). Days 2 to 7, 6/115 (5.2%) and 16/113 (14.2%); Day 2 to End of Therapy, 13/118 (11.0%) and 30/114 (26.3%). 'Compara-tor: vancomycin (1 g IV q12h) or anti-staphylococcal semi-synthetic peni-cillin (ie, nafcillin, oxacillin, cloxacillin, fluctovacillin; 2 g IV q4h), each with initial low-dose gentamicin. **Post-Marketing Experience** The following adverse reactions have been reported with CUBICN in worldwide post-marketing experience. Because these events are reported voluntarily from apopulation of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made and causal relationship cannot be precisely established. *Immune System Dis- orders*: anaphylaxis; hypersensitivity reactions, including purifus, hives, shortness of breath, difficulty swallowing, truncal erythema, and pulmo-nary eosinophilia. *Musculoskeletal System*: rhabdomyolysis; some reports **Involved patients** treated concurrently with CUBICN and HMG-CoA reduc-tase inhibitors. OVERDOSAGE In the event of overdosage, supportive care is advised with

UVEDUSAGE In the event of overdosage, supportive care is advised with maintenance of glomerular filtration. Daptomycin is slowly cleared from the body by hemodialysis (approximately 15% recovered over 4 hours) or peritoneal dialysis (approximately 15% recovered over 4 hours). The use of high-flux dialysis membranes during 4 hours of hemodialysis may increase the percentage of dose removed compared with low-flux membranes. **DOSAGE** The recommended dosage of CUBICIN (daptomycin for injection) in adult patients is as follows: *Creatinine clearance* (C_{Log}) \geq 30 mL/min: 4 mg/kg once every 24 hours (SSSI) or 6 mg/kg once every 24 hours (S. aureus bloodstream infections); *Creatinine clearance* (C_{Log}) \geq 30 mL/min: functuding hemodialysis or CAPD: 4 mg/kg once every 48 hours (SSSI) or 6 mg/kg once every 48 hours (S. SSI) or 6 m

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More than two-thirds of surveyed Americans favor requiring individuals to obtain health insurance in an effort to provide universal health coverage.

BY MARY ELLEN

SCHNEIDER

New York Bureau

health insurance system and say

they believe health insurance

costs should be shared among

individuals, employers, and the

government, according to a

Commonwealth Fund survey.

ost Americans favor a

continuation of the

employer-based

Universal Health Coverage Favored

These findings indicate that on certain health reform issues Americans' views may be more closely aligned with proposals put forth by Democratic candidates for president than those outlined by Republicans. For example, the leading Democratic

candidates would require employers to offer health coverage to employees or pay for part of their coverage, while most of the Republican candidates propose changes to the tax code that could reduce the role of employers in the health insurance market, according to a Commonwealth Fund analysis.

Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) would support an individual insurance mandate, while Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) would mandate coverage for all children. Of the Republican candidates, no one is proposing an individual insurance mandate, according to the Commonwealth Fund.

From June to October 2007, the Commonwealth Fund conducted a phone survey of 3,501 adults aged 19 years and older as part of its biennial health insurance survey.

Respondents expressed broad support for employer-based health insurance. About 81% said employers should provide health insurance or contribute to a fund to cover all Americans. Support for this idea among respondents was high regardless of political affiliation, race, gender, age, and income.

Support for an individual insurance mandate to ensure coverage for all was lower; 68% of respondents said they strongly or somewhat favor a requirement that all individuals obtain health insurance.

When respondents were asked who should pay for health insurance for all Americans, 66% favored a system in which costs would be shared by individuals, employers, and the government. About 15% said it should be financed mostly by government, 8% said by employers, and 6% by individuals. About 86% of the respondents said health care reform is very or somewhat important in determining their vote.

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