

Situation: Legacy Health Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (P&T) voted at the April meeting to remove liposomal bupivacaine (Exparel®), an anesthetic for local and regional analgesia, from formulary.

Background: Legacy P&T reviewed clinical trial data and stakeholder input to determine the formulary status of liposomal bupivacaine. Recent published literature shows that evidence for improved efficacy and cost-effectiveness with liposomal bupivacaine, compared to alternatives, is lacking.

Assessment:

- Clinical trial data does not support continued use of liposomal bupivacaine.
- Liposomal bupivacaine use is not the community standard in hospitals.
- Liposomal bupivacaine use is inconsistent across Legacy Health, with successful use of alternatives.

Recommendation:

- Replace liposomal bupivacaine (Exparel®) with alternatives other than On-Q pumps. Standard local anesthetics may be a substitute for infiltration. Anesthesiology recommends that conventional single shot nerve blocks or plane blocks using standard local anesthetics including adjuvants may be used, based on provider discretion.
 - On-Q pump should not be used as a substitute, due to a shortage of anesthetics and the potential for complications.
- Complete a 6-month follow-up on cases that previously used liposomal bupivacaine, to assess outcomes, including length of stay and inpatient opioid utilization.