

# Drug Utilization Review Board

## Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, December 14, 2023**

**7:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.**

**Google Meet**

**Board Members Present:**

Judith Turner, DVM, PharmD

Susan Siegfroid, MD

Katherine Smith, PharmD

Colby Hancock, PharmD

Neal Catalano, PharmD

Sharon Weinstein, MD

Michelle Hofman, MD

James Keddington, DDS

Jennifer Brinton, MD

Eric Cannon, PharmD, FAMCP, Board  
Chair

**Board Members Excused:**

**Dept. of Health/Div. of Health Care Financing Staff Present:**

Andrea Rico, CPhT, CPC

Lisa Angelos, PharmD, BCSCP, CAPP

Luis Moreno, PharmD, CDCES

Ngan Huynh, PharmD, DURB Manager

Stephanie Byrne, PharmD

Jennifer Strohecker, PharmD,  
Medicaid Director

Yoon Kim-Butterfield, MD, Medical  
Director, Interim Pharmacy Director

Craig Hummel, MD

**University of Utah Drug Regimen Review Center Staff Presenter:**

Lauren Heath, PharmD, MS, BCACP

**Other Individuals Present:**

Andrea Stratton, Krystal Biotech

Karen Ward, Krystal Biotech

Kathryne Jensen, Arcus Biosciences

Monet Luloh, Medicaid DRRC

Gary Parenteau, Dexcom

Miles Rooney, CHC, OptumRx

Heidi Goodrich, Molina Healthcare

Sara Stolfus, Artia Solutions

Matthew Call, University of Utah

Sarah Lott, Artia Solutions

1 individual joined by phone

**Meeting conducted by:** Ngan Huynh and Eric Cannon

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- 1) **Welcome:** Ngan Huynh opened the meeting and reminded everyone who attended the meeting to identify themselves via meeting chat or by sending an email to [medicaidpharmacy@utah.gov](mailto:medicaidpharmacy@utah.gov). Ngan Huynh announced a quorum.
- 2) **Review and Approval of Choose an item Minutes:** Eric Cannon motioned to approve the minutes from October 2023. Unanimous approval.
- 3) **Housekeeping:**
  - 1) Chair Nomination Discussion
    - a) Eric Cannon has agreed to continue as chair.
  - 2) Jennifer Strohecker shared:
    - a) Information on the Governor's Budget:
      - i) Justice involved work to help incarcerated individuals to become Medicaid eligible 90 days prior to release, which will also include 30 days of medication at release with intensive case management to ensure continuation of care and appropriate care management.
      - ii) Housing Support Services
      - iii) Rate increases for primary care services
      - iv) Rate disparities being addressed
    - b) Legislative directive on pharmacy delivery, unified PDL, centralized PBM, full carve back to FFS study being completed by Milliman. Study results should be available by the first week of the legislative session for consideration.
    - c) Important Medicaid Policy Changes going live January 1<sup>st</sup>:
      - i) 2 months of continuous enrollment for children
      - ii) Postpartum coverage extended to 12 months
      - iii) State CHIP benefits for ~2000 non-citizen children
      - iv) Non-Traditional Program enrollees will transition to Traditional Program benefits.
- 4) **P&T Committee Update:** None

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### 5) Topic:

#### a) Antidepressants in Children and Adolescents Indications and Use of Multiple Antidepressants:

- i) Presentation presented by Lauren Heath
- ii) Public Comment: None
- iii) Board Discussion:

- (1) Eric Cannon asked about Medicaid utilization data and expectations for review of this category. Ngan Huynh responded that this is a potential DUR intervention. Similar to the antipsychotics in children intervention instituted several years ago. She continued with a request to hear from the board on their perspectives of this issue to help inform the decision to move this work forward.
- (2) Sharon Weinstein mentioned her experience in this area lies with the clinical consensus for antidepressant use first-line for pediatric pain conditions.
- (3) Jennifer Brinton mentioned complex pediatric cases that require combination therapies who don't respond to first-line therapies. She said it is helpful to have the different options available now and the specialists who are helping these pediatric patients.
- (4) Eric Cannon asked if there were questionable practices occurring, or if anyone is seeing things that are concerning in the field. Jennifer Brinton mentioned that she has not experienced misuse of medications, rather the issue is ensuring access to the medications.
- (5) Eric Cannon mentioned there may be underuse of medications in appropriate settings in this realm. The increasing rates of suicide ideation and suicide attempts in pediatric population would indicate that is the case.
- (6) Sharon Weinstein mentioned that she is aware of the uptick in mental health needs since the pandemic for both pediatric and adult populations. She would like to see a table for crossover for pediatric pain and depression treatments as guidance. Not thinking of pain

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as the primary condition but considering the therapy to ensure we aren't missing a pain diagnosis that could also be addressed with an economy of pharmacotherapy.

- (7) Eric Cannon addressed Ngan Huynh stating, Jennifer Strohecker mentioned a lot of changes in Medicaid addressing the needs of children. He continued with his concern that there may be underutilization and may be a good area to further investigate.
- (8) Ngan Huynh expressed her gratitude for the feedback from the board. She further shared information about the MDD program that Luis Moreno is overseeing to complete outreach to assist with medication adherence.
- (9) Eric Cannon mentioned this may be a collaborative effort with the Managed Care Entities to see if there are differences in utilization between the Medicaid populations.
- (10) Jennifer Strohecker mentioned some additional work is being completed by the Office of Public Licensing regarding behavioral health access in the state to improve access to care for the impacted individuals. She would like to bring some of that data back for discussion to help inform the best way to move forward.
- (11) Eric Cannon expressed his gratitude for the feedback and looks forward to the data that will be shared in the future.

**b) Board Action:** None

### 6) **Topic:**

**a) Vyjuvek (beremagene geperpavec-svdt)**

- i) Presented by Luis Moreno, PharmD, CDCES
- ii) Public Comment:

(1) Karen Ward, Krystal Biotech, mentioned that this is a re-dosable, topical medication dosed weekly. She mentioned she is available for questions.

iii) Board Discussion:

(1) Eric Cannon asked Luis Moreno if Medicaid is planning to

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create a prior authorization for this therapy.

(2) Luis Moreno responded, the Medicaid Pharmacy Team is creating a prior authorization and currently seeking input from our managed care partners. We plan to present the proposed prior authorization at the next DURB meeting.

iv) Board action: None

7) Eric closed with gratitude for the opportunity to participate this year and for all those who have participated this year. He further wished Happy Holidays to everyone. He mentioned keeping kindness in our hearts with understanding that the holidays are difficult for some. Yoon Kim-Butterfield reiterated the gratitude expressed by Eric Cannon. She mentioned the efforts of the board members which allow us to have a drug utilization review process and appreciates the sacrifices to support great care for our patients.

### 8) Meeting Chat:

00:02:39.973,00:02:42.973

Sharon M Weinstein MD: Thank you Dr Cannon

00:09:04.077,00:09:07.077

Jennifer Brinton: Thank you for your work to support these vulnerable populations!

00:10:11.074,00:10:14.074

Jennifer Brinton: Hooray!

00:11:29.156,00:11:32.156

Sharon M Weinstein MD: Very grateful for your work to advance these programs!

00:46:23.618,00:46:26.618

Sharon M Weinstein MD: Re: the overlap of pain and mood disorders, another opportunity to emphasize behavioral health components of pain tre

00:46:30.970,00:46:33.970

Sharon M Weinstein MD: treatment

00:47:32.315,00:47:35.315

Sharon M Weinstein MD: pain adds to suicide risk ...

00:59:32.830,00:59:35.830

Sharon M Weinstein MD: thank you

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9) **The next meeting scheduled for** January 11, 2023 Topic of discussion:  
Lantidra

10) **Public Meeting Adjourned:** Eric Cannon motioned to adjourn the meeting. Michelle Hofman and Sharon Weinstein seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

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Audio recordings of DUR meetings are available online at:

[https://www.youtube.com/@dmhf\\_webdohdhs2](https://www.youtube.com/@dmhf_webdohdhs2)