

Drug Utilization Review Board

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 13, 2024

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

Google Meet

Board Members Present:

Colby Hancock, PharmD
James Keddington, DDS
Jennifer Brinton, MD
Jordan Koncinsky, MD
Judith Turner, DVM, PharmD
Katherine Smith, PharmD

Michelle Hofmann, MD
Sharon Weinstein, MD
Susan Siegfried, MD
Eric Cannon, PharmD, FAMCP, Board
Chair

Board Members Excused:

Sam Wardell, PharmD

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

Andrea Rico, CPhT, CPC, Tech Mgr
Bryan Larson, PharmD, P&T Mgr
Cheryl Smith
Lisa Angelos, PharmD, BCSCP, CAPP
Luis Moreno, PharmD, CDCES
Ngan Huynh, PharmD, DUR Mgr

Sepideh Daery, PharmD, Pharmacy
Director
Stephanie Byrne, PharmD, Policy Mgr
Yoon Kim-Butterfield, MD, Medical
Director

University of Utah Drug Regimen Review Center Staff Presenter:

Lauren Heath, PharmD, MS

Other Individuals Present:

Alice Swett, Alexion
Brielle Dozier, Artia Solutions
Jeff White, CarelonRx
Lauren Heath, Medicaid DRRC
Matthew Call, U of U

Monet Luloh, Medicaid DRRC
Sierra Schippers, PharmBUDs Podcast
Tom Deckelman, Madrigal
Tracy Pellegrino, Regeneron
Valarie Gonzales, Medicaid DRRC
1 joined by phone

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Meeting conducted by: Eric Cannon, PharmD, FAMCP, Board Chair

1. **Welcome:**

Ngan Huynh opened the meeting and reminded everyone in attendance to identify themselves via meeting chat or by sending an email to medicaidpharmacy@utah.gov. Ngan Huynh announced a quorum.

2. **Review and Approval of May 2024 Minutes:**

Eric Cannon motioned to approve the minutes from May 2024. Katherine Smith proposed the motion and Susan Siegfried seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

3. **Housekeeping:**

- 1) Ngan Huynh reminded everyone to have cameras on during the DUR Board Meeting, if possible.
- 2) Sepideh Daery updated everyone on the Optum outage. The current recovery phase involves drug file updates that will update the preferred drug list. Currently no estimated date on when the system will be fully functional.
- 3) Ngan Huynh shared that the Managed Care Entities (MCE) for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Survey responses have been received. The responses are due to CMS by 6/30/2024 and the report will be available for review on the CMS website next year.

4. **P&T Committee Update:** Bryan Larson shared the most recent P&T Committee review from May 2024 when oral Anti-VEGF medications were discussed. Upcoming P&T Committee will be held in September 2024 and will cover Hereditary Angioedema and the annual MCE updates.

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5. Topic:

- a. Concurrent Use of Muscle Relaxants and/or Sedative-Hypnotics with Opioids, presented by Lauren Heath, PharmD, MS with the Medicaid Drug Regimen Review Center
- b. Public Comment: None
- c. Board Discussion:
 - Sharon Weinstein mentioned the gabapentinoids and asked why they were not considered as part of the review and if they might be considered for future reviews.
 - Lauren Heath responded that the gabapentinoids were not an area of focus on this review, but could be considered in a future review, if requested.
 - Sharon Weinstein further commented on the complexity of this drug combination, lack of provider education with these particular drug combinations, and the possibilities of non-pharmacologic therapies.
 - Jennifer Brinton asked if there needs to be a motion on educating providers who are prescribing these drug combinations.
 - Luis Moreno shared the outreach that he currently oversees that helps address at-risk patients taking opioids and benzodiazepines. Luis Moreno asked the DUR Board if, based on the outcomes of this research, he needs to adjust his recommendations.
 - Sharon Weinstein responded that there is risk at lower doses as well as higher doses, so the outreach seems appropriate even with lower doses.
 - Eric Cannon asked if there was data on ER visits and associated deaths from use of this drug combination.
 - Lauren Heath responded that this data was not something they reviewed for this report but that the data is likely available.
 - Eric Cannon asked if there is an algorithm that will help to direct resources to focus on the patients that are most at risk.
 - Susan Siegfried said providers often feel more comfortable prescribing sedative hypnotics because there is a perception of decreased risk vs. opioids and muscle relaxants. She further mentioned complications when patients have multiple prescribers.

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- Luis Moreno responded that based on his experience with contacting providers, some are aware of potentially dangerous combinations and others are not, when dealing with patients with multiple prescribers.
- Ngan Huynh then asked the board if they had any recommendations to consider to further educate providers who may be prescribing these drug combinations.

d. Board Action:

Eric Cannon motioned that the state incorporate a review process for concurrent use of muscle relaxants and sedative hypnotics with opioids. Jennifer Brinton proposed the motion and Sharon Weinstein seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

6. Topic:

- a. Evkeeza (evinacumab) Prior Authorization Draft presented by Ngan Huynh, PharmD, DUR Manager
- b. Public Comment: None
- c. Board Discussion: Katherine Smith suggested adding the word “drug” before “therapy” for greater clarity. Ngan Huynh made the addition.
- d. Board Action: Eric Cannon asked for a motion. Sharon Weinstein motioned to approve the Evkeeza (evinacumab) Prior Authorization form as presented and Michelle Hofmann seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

7. Meeting Chat Transcript:

00:01:36.511,00:01:39.511

Alice Swett: alice.swett@alexion.com

00:40:03.272,00:40:06.272

Luis Moreno (DHHS): Thank you Dr Weinstein, for your input. I agree that the risk for respiratory depression is cumulative, even in patients with lower dose combinations of these CNS depressants.

00:43:39.490,00:43:42.490

Sharon M Weinstein MD: we can identify patients who are being co-prescribed by multiple prescribers and going to multiple



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pharmacies - those are likely highest risk; prescribers are to use the CSDB to note that and communicate with other prescribers; in my experience that is difficult to achieve

00:47:19.803,00:47:22.803

Sharon M Weinstein MD: more work to do!

00:52:09.178,00:52:12.178

Jennifer Brinton: This seems reasonable.

00:52:17.830,00:52:20.830

Michelle Hofmann (DHHS): agreed

00:52:27.033,00:52:30.033

Sharon M Weinstein MD: agree

00:54:47.684,00:54:50.684

Sharon M Weinstein MD: thank you all for the comprehensive work

8. **The next meeting scheduled for:** July 11, 2024
Topic: Concurrent Use of Stimulants and sleep aids
9. **Public Meeting Adjourned:**
Eric Cannon closed the meeting.

Audio recordings of DUR meetings are available online at:

https://www.youtube.com/@dmhf_webdohdhhs2