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| Minutes  Drug Utilization Review Board Meeting  DATE: December 11, 2024 |  |



**Meeting Purpose:** Quarterly Drug Utilization Board Meeting

Meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. by Rebekah Rice, RPh

The meeting was conducted under Massachusetts Public Meeting Law requirements.

**Attendance:** Mehmet Furkan Burbak, MD; Melissa Coyle, PharmD; Timothy Fensky, RPh; Colleen Labelle, MSN, RN-BC, CARN; Lori Lewicki, RPh; Sarah M McGee, MD; Rebekah Rice, RPh, CDCES; Christy Stine, MD, PhD

**Absent:** Laura Spring, MD; Karen Ryle, MS, RPh

**Agenda Items:**

* Welcome and Introductory Remarks
* Minutes
* Growth Hormone Quality Assurance Analysis
* Antipsychotics Quality Assurance Analysis
* Anemia of Chronic Kidney Disease Quality Assurance Analysis and Clinical Update
* MHDL Update
* **DUR Operational Update**
* **MassHealth Update**
* **Hepatitis Antiviral Agents Assurance Analysis**
* **Open Forum**

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| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion** | **Conclusions/Follow- up** |
| **Minutes** | Motion to approve the minutes for September 2024 was made by Sarah M McGee, MD and was seconded by Timothy Fensky, RPh. | **Follow-up**  Minutes are approved. |

| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion** | **Conclusions/Follow- up** |
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| Growth Hormone (GH) Quality Assurance Analysis | Growth Hormone Quality Assurance by Dr. Kaelyn Boss  This evaluation of current medical literature provided a brief overview of new guideline recommendations in this disease state. | **Follow-up**  Informational/Advisory |
| Action | Discussion   * Reviewed available GH agents and their indications * Compared long-acting GH agents * Summarized MassHealth management of the class * Discussed updates to MassHealth management for January 2025   Conclusions   * There currently are many available GH agents, the majority of which are administered once daily. * GH agents are generally used for management of short stature in pediatric patients, while in adults there is a broader range of symptoms that may be targeted. * There are three FDA-approved long-acting GH agents that are available; all are approved for pediatric growth hormone deficiency (GHD) and one is approved for adult GHD. * MassHealth criteria varies by indication. * Effective January 6, 2025, MassHealth will manage short-acting GH with preferred drug designation for Genotropin® and will manage long-acting GH with preferred drug designation for Skytrofa®, and Sogroya®. | **Conclusion**  The board reviewed and accepted the presentation. |

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| **Antipsychotics Quality Assurance Analysis** | Antipsychotics Quality Assurance Analysis by Dr. Amy Dionne  This of current medical literature provided a brief overview of new guideline recommendations in this disease state. | **Follow-up**  Informational/Advisory |
| Action | Discussion   * Provided overview of antipsychotic medications * Reviewed most current treatment guidelines * Summarized the MassHealth antipsychotic class management * Discussed trends in utilization and prior authorizations (PA) * Reviewed new product additions * Provided a look to the future: pipeline overview   Conclusions   * The antipsychotic class has been managed through a variety of mechanisms, including PA on branded products, special formulations, quantity limits, and polypharmacy. * Our trends in utilization and PAs demonstrated appropriate use of medications and guidelines. * The FDA approval of Cobenfy® provided a new way to treat schizophrenia * Additional products with new mechanisms of action are in the pipeline.   Questions   * The board members discussed factors they consider when prescribing initial or adjunctive therapy (e.g., when their patient is tolerant of a medication, but not seeing a significant change in symptoms). | **Conclusion**  The board reviewed and accepted the presentation. |

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| **Anemia of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Quality Assurance and Clinical Update** | Anemia of Chronic Kidney Disease Quality Assurance Analysis and Clinical Update by Dr. Edward Pudim  This evaluation of current medical literature provided a brief overview of new guideline recommendations in this disease state. | **Follow-up**  Informational/Advisory |
| Action | Discussion   * Provided a background on anemia of CKD * Described current medications and medications in the pipeline for the treatment of anemia of CKD * Summarized anemia of CKD treatment recommendations from clinical practice guidelines * Reviewed current MassHealth management and findings from two QA analyses for medications to treat anemia of CKD * Discussed recommended changes to MassHealth management of medications for anemia of CKD   Conclusions   * Anemia is a common complication in patients with CKD on dialysis and is associated with increased risk of CKD progression, major adverse cardiovascular event (MACE), and mortality. * Treatment for anemia of CKD starts by addressing correctable causes, such as iron deficiency, before considering use of erythropoiesis stimulating agents (ESAs) or hypoxia-inducible factor prolyl hydroxylase inhibitors (HIF-PHIs). * ESAs and HIF-PHIs all carry a black-box warning for increased risk of death, cardiovascular (CV) and thromboembolic events, and stroke, along with warnings for use in patients with active or recent malignancy. * ESAs are suggested as first-line treatment over HIF-PHIs in the draft 2025 Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) guideline, which aligns with current MassHealth management of these agents. * MassHealth approval criteria were updated to assess for appropriate ESA syringe or vial size and to manage Retacrit® (epoetin alfa-epbx) at parity with Epogen® (epoetin alfa), based on pricing changes. * Vafseo® (vadadustat) will be added to the MassHealth Drug List with approval criteria matching Jesduvroq® (daprodustat). | **Conclusion**  The board reviewed and accepted the presentation. |

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| **MassHealth Drug List (MHDL) Update** | MHDL Update by Dr. Yrielda Morava  MHDL overview included new additions, changes in PA status, and related attachment updates to be implemented with a recent publication rollout. | **Follow-up**  Informational/Advisory |
| Action | Discussion   * Effective January 6, 2025:   + There were 20 additions to the MHDL; and   + There were 20 changes in PA status. * There were several changes to Coverage Status for Brand Name Preferred Over Generic List; FDA”A”-rated Generics; 90-day Initiative; and Updates and Changes to the MHDL. | **Conclusion**  The board reviewed and accepted the presentation. |

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| **DUR Operational Update** | DUR Operational Update by Dr. Jeannine Beauregard  DUR operational overview included statistics associated with PA review and PA response, and call center metrics. | **Follow-up**  Informational/Advisory |
| Action | Discussion   * Operational statistics, including PA and call center metrics up to December 31, 2024, were discussed. * All metrics met or exceeded service level agreements. | **Conclusion**  The board reviewed and accepted the presentation. |

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| **MassHealth Update** | MassHealth Update by Dr. Kimberly Lenz  MassHealth Update is a summary of recent developments in MassHealth in the context of pharmacy, managed care, or public health. | **Follow-up**  Informational/Advisory |
| Action | Discussion   * Reviewed current clinical program initiatives * Provided direct negotiation status update * Discussed operational updates | **Conclusion**  The board reviewed and accepted the presentation. |

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| **Hepatitis Antiviral Agents Quality Assurance** | Hepatitis Antiviral Quality Assurance Analysis by Dr. Collin Jerard  This evaluation of current medical literature provided a brief overview of new guideline recommendations in this disease state. | **Follow-up**  Informational/Advisory |
| Action | Discussion   * Provided an overview of hepatitis C virus (HCV) * Reviewed current management of HCV direct-acting antivirals (DAAs) * Summarized recent clinical literature on HCV * Identified trends in pharmacy utilization and PA requests * Highlighted upcoming changes to MassHealth management of HCV DAAs   Conclusion   * Preferred HCV DAAs account for nearly all the pharmacy utilization. * Point of sale (POS) rules were recently updated to remove criteria looking for drug-drug interactions within pharmacy claims history. * POS rules allow most claims for select DAAs to pay at the pharmacy without PA as of October 1, 2024. * MassHealth guidelines will be updated to be aligned with the most recent AASLD/IDSA HCV Guidance on treatment interruptions in treatment-naïve patients, without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis, receiving Mavyret® or sofosbuvir/velpatasvir. | **Conclusion**  The board reviewed and accepted the presentation. |

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| **Open Forum** | Open Forum | **Follow-up**  Informational/Advisory |

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mylissa Price

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