

Minutes

Drug Utilization Review Board Meeting

DATE: 12/8/10



**Meeting Purpose:** Quarterly Open Board Meeting  
Meeting opened at 6:08 P.M. by Chair, Patrick Reilly.

**Agenda Items:**

- I. Welcome and Introductory Remarks
- II. Pharmaceutical Pipeline Preview
- III. MassHealth Drug List Update
- IV. DUR Operational Update
- V. MassHealth Update      Dr. Paul Jeffrey

Agenda Item	Discussion	Conclusions/Follow Up
Review of Minutes	The September, 2010 Minutes were reviewed and accepted as written at the November DUR Board meeting.	<u>Follow Up</u>
Action		<b>Conclusion:</b> September Minutes approved as noted.

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Pharmaceutical Pipeline Preview	A continuing education program, Drugs in the Pharmaceutical Pipeline, was presented. Recent FDA approval trends, emerging agents with currently available therapeutic options were compared and contrasted and a summary of expected generic availability of commonly used agents over the next three years was presented.	<u>Follow Up</u>
Action	The presentation was interactive, and a discussion around new oral anticoagulants and warfarin took place. Compliance and dosing issues, bleeding complications, stroke and cost were all discussed. It was noted that if medication changes would prevent only one intracranial	<b>Conclusion:</b> The year 2010 brought some interesting "firsts."

	<p>hemorrhage the cost of savings would be significant.</p> <p>The newer oral anticoagulants will continue to be closely monitored by MassHealth.</p>	<p>“Firsts” include a new treatment for lupus in 50 years, oral anticoagulants, a weight loss product, hepatitis C protease inhibitor, and an oral multiple sclerosis disease modifier.</p> <p>Continue monitoring the market for developments in anticoagulation, multiple sclerosis and hepatitis C. The year 2011 may bring some key approvals of new drugs and significant additions to the generic pipeline will occur.</p>
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<b>MassHealth Drug List Update</b>	<p>There are 16 new additions to the drug list effective February 7, 2011. Changes in Prior Authorization (PA) for several drugs were noted. Three drugs Aceon, ephedrine injection and Sandimmune will no longer require PA. Drugs restricted to hospital use effective 2/7/11 include Refludan and Acova. Both had previously required a PA.</p> <p>Effective 2/21/11, Angiomax will be restricted to hospital use only. Blephamide, Poly-Pred, Pred-G, Tobradex and Zylet will all require a PA effective 2/21/11.</p> <p>Proton Pump Inhibitor Quantity Limits (QL) of 30 units/30 days will apply to ALL PPIs except generic omeprazole 20 mg - PA &gt; 120 units/month. Points of sale (POS) rules are being developed to allow member's with specific conditions to bypass the restrictions.</p>	<u><b>Follow Up</b></u>
<b>Action</b>	<p>Reminder: Actos and Avandia require PA effective January 1, 2011.</p> <p>A new MassHealth Drug List is on the way. The URL will be the same, with a similar look and feel. New features will include a search function, drug class links, and fill-able PA request forms.</p>	Informational

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<b>DUR Operational Update</b>	<p>The DUR call center averages 7,000 calls per month with an abandonment rate of approximately 1. % Average treatment time is up slightly, due to new staff and longer guidelines. The number of appeals varies per month with April having the highest. Provider outreach numbers peaked in June 2010 and show considerable growth (over 300) when comparing September 2009 to September 2010.</p>	Informational
<b>Action</b>		<b>Conclusion:</b>

Agenda Item	Discussion	Conclusions/Follow Up
<b>MassHealth Update</b>	<p>Budget issues continue and the effect on the Pharmacy Program is not known at this time. There has been relatively flat spending over the past nine years due an increasing generic dispensing rate which has allowed MassHealth to absorb growth in membership without increasing pharmacy program costs. It is not known how the fiscal 2012 deficit will be resolved. It was noted that some states (e.g. Mississippi) limit the number of brand name or total number of medications that any one member may receive.</p> <p>On a positive note, pharmacists have been recognized as mid-level practitioners to provide services such as administering vaccines. Last year 1,800 vaccinations were administered in one month. This year there have been 4,000 vaccine administrations in one month. MassHealth is now able to reimburse pharmacists for services beyond those related to dispensing.</p> <p>The preferred diabetes test strip initiative is fully operational with 99.5% conversion.</p> <p>Work continues on Smart PA and the next generation of POPS.</p>	Informational

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vincent Palumbo, R.Ph.  
DUR Program Director

Date: February 15, 2011