Minutes
Drug Utilization Review Board Meeting
DATE: March 12, 2025

Meeting Purpose: Quarterly Drug Utilization Board Meeting
Meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. by Laura Spring, MD

The meeting was conducted under Massachusetts Public Meeting Law requirements.

Attendance: Diane Bruessow; Mehmet Furkan Burbak, MD; Melissa Coyle, PharmD; Colleen Labelle, MSN, RN-BC, CARN; Jaqueline Gagnon; Lori Lewicki, RPh; Mirembe Reed, Pharm.D.; Laura Spring, MD; Karen Ryle, MS, RPh; Christy Stine, MD, PhD

Absent: Timothy Fensky, RPh

Agenda Items:
- Welcome and Introductory Remarks
- Guest Speakers
- Annual Pipeline Continuing Education Program
- Asthma and Allergy Quality Assurance Analysis
- MHDL Update
- DUR Operational Update
- MassHealth Update
- Open Forum

Agenda Item	Discussion	Conclusions/Follow-up
Guest Speakers	• Sharl Azar, MD, Director of Sickle Cell Center, spoke on pain treatment options for patients with Sickle Cell Disease. • Cheryl Juaire, Founder of Teen Sharing Inc., spoke on behalf of patient advocacy for opioid addiction.	**Follow-up** Minutes are approved.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Conclusions/Follow-up
Annual Pipeline Continuing Education Program	**<u>Annual Pipeline Continuing Education by Dr. Collin Jerard and Dr. Stephen Alverez</u>** This Pipeline update provided an overview of clinical and/or regulatory updates for select pharmaceutical pipeline agents in late-stage development.	**<u>Follow-up</u>** Informational/Advisory
Action	Discussion • Described the current trends in the FDA approval process • Compared and contrasted emerging pipeline agents with currently available therapeutic options • Summarized biosimilar product availability of reference agents over the next year • Reviewed trends in historical approvals of new drugs • Looked at upcoming Pipeline trends Conclusions • Oncology drugs continue to lead the pack for pipeline drug development, with no new therapeutic areas cracking the top 10. • Cell and gene therapy approvals accelerate as the number of clinical trials continue to trend upward. • There are more than 40 potential biosimilar launches in 2025 across various therapeutic classes.	**<u>Conclusion</u>** The board reviewed and accepted the presentation.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Conclusions/Follow-up
Asthma and Allergy Quality Assurance (QA)	**<u>Asthma and Allergy Quality Assurance Analysis by Dr. Karen Stevens</u>** This analysis of current medical literature provided a brief overview of new guideline recommendations in this disease state.	**<u>Follow-up</u>** Informational/Advisory

Agenda Item	Discussion	Conclusions/Follow-up

Action	Discussion
	• Reviewed current class management
	• Discussed consensus guideline updates for various indications
	• Evaluated utilization for MassHealth members
	• Presented expanded indications for the monoclonal antibodies
	• Examined pipeline agents as well as investigational indications for currently available medications
	• Summarized recommendations from QA analysis
	
	Conclusions
	• Approval criteria have been created and added to the MHDL and PA Form for the following expanded indications,
	  ○ Dupixent® for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
	  ○ Nemluvio® for atopic dermatitis
	  ○ Nucala® and Xolair® for chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps. Criteria have been updated to be in line with Dupixent management.
	• The asthma and allergy monoclonal antibodies continue to be highly utilized for the approved indications.
		Conclusion
		The board reviewed and accepted the presentation.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Conclusions/Follow-up
MassHealth Drug List (MHDL) Update	**MHDL Update by Dr. Phuong Luc** 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 April 1, 2025:
	  ○ There were 14 additions to the MHDL; and
	  ○ There were two changes in PA status.
	• There were several changes to Coverage Status for Prior Authorization Status; Coverage Status; Brand Name Preferred Over Generic List; 90-day Initiative; Updates and Changes to the MHDL.
		Conclusion
		The board reviewed and accepted the presentation.

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

Agenda Item	Discussion	Conclusions/Follow-up
Open Forum	**<u>Open Forum</u>**	**<u>Follow-up</u>** Informational/Advisory

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mylissa Price

Date: _____