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| 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**

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| **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. |

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| Annual Pipeline Continuing Education Program | Annual Pipeline Continuing Education by Dr. Collin Jerard and Dr. Stephen Alverez  This Pipeline update provided an overview of clinical and/or regulatory updates for select pharmaceutical pipeline agents in late-stage development. | **Follow-up**  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. | **Conclusion**  The board reviewed and accepted the presentation. |

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

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| **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. |

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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. |

| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion** | **Conclusions/Follow- up** |
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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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