

**North Dakota Medicaid Drug Use Review (DUR) Board
Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2021**

Members Present: Joshua Askvig, Andrea Honeyman, Kathleen Traylor, Gabriela Balf, Amy Werremeyer, Laura Kroetsch, Tanya Schmidt, Kevin Martian, Kristen Peterson, Jennifer Iverson

Medicaid Pharmacy Department: Alexi Murphy, Brendan Joyce

Old Business

Chair T. Schmidt called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Chair T. Schmidt asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2021 meeting. J. Askvig moved that the minutes be approved, and L. Kroetsch seconded the motion. The chair called for a voice vote to approve the minutes. The motion passed with no audible dissent.

Review Top 25 Drugs

B. Joyce presented budget updates and the quarterly review of the top 25 drugs based on total cost of claims, the top 25 drugs based on the total number of claims, and the top drug classes based on claims and cost for the 4th quarter of 2021. B. Joyce presented data to the Board that was reflective of the net spend since merging traditional Medicaid and expansion. The rise in net spend over time, specifically after the first quarter in 2020, is directly linked to the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health emergency that coincided with the pandemic. B. Joyce also discussed the increase in total population covered by Medicaid after the first quarter in 2020. B. Joyce went on to discuss the per member per month and how some members may not be utilizing services for unknown reasons. During public comment, J. Askvig asked if the total number of claims has changed due to the pandemic, in which B. Joyce answered that the number of claims has remained about the same. G. Balf asked if there were claims for ivermectin to treat Covid-19, in which B. Joyce answered that there must be support in the compendia or FDA approved indication for the uses of medications. Thus, if there is no indication for use, then ND Medicaid does not cover the medication.

PDL/PA Criteria Updates

A. Murphy shared with the Board all the changes made to the Preferred Drug List since the last version of the Preferred Drug List was posted. Notable changes include removing certain estrogen products, certain topical steroids, and certain inhalers from PA, as well as adding hyper expensive agents to already existing PA category criteria. All PDL updates are listed in the handouts for the December 2021 DUR Board meeting. When a new version of the PDL is published and posted to the website, all updates/changes made since the last version are called out at the top of the document itself.

Proposed New Criteria for Eczema / Atopic Dermatitis

L. Morgan presented the proposed prior authorization criteria for Opzelura. The proposed updates included adding Opzelura to the list of non-preferred topical agents, requiring prior authorization. Since Opzelura is FDA indicated for short-term and non-continuous chronic treatment of mild to moderate atopic dermatitis, requiring prior authorization is essential to ensure proper use of the agent.

Second Review of Non-Stimulant Agents Used in the Treatment of ADHD

A motion and second was made at the September 2021 DUR Board meeting to place some agents, for the management of ADHD on the non-preferred list, requiring PA. The topic was brought up for a second review. Product specific ADHD criteria for Qelbree was presented to the Board by L. Morgan. Chair T. Schmidt called for a voice vote to approve the updated criteria, which passed with no audible dissent.

Annual Review of Prior Authorization Forms and Criteria

The Board reviewed all forms and criteria utilized for all medications that are currently placed on prior authorization. L. Morgan discussed the major changes made in the preferred drug list (PDL) since the last update. This list of changes is included in the handout, as well as, in the PDL. L. Morgan also discussed the changes made in the PA forms, most notably the Kepro logo replacing the Health Information Designs logo and the updated "General PA form." The updates in the "General PA form" include adding sections for member weight, primary insurance requirements, and reason for PA. By including more information in the general PA form, many drug specific PA forms were removed that were no longer necessary. Chair T. Schmidt then called for any questions or concerns about the reviewed forms and criteria, which had no audible questions or dissent.

New Business

Review of Agents Used in the Treatment of Chronic Kidney Disease

L. Morgan presented a review of agents used in the treatment of chronic kidney disease (CKD) to the Board. No was no public comment after review. A motion was made by A. Werremeyer to manage these medications through prior authorization. The motion was seconded by Chair T. Schmidt. Prior authorization criteria for these agents will be presented, reviewed, and voted on by the Board at the next meeting.

Review of Agents Used in the Treatment of Lupus

L. Morgan presented a review of agents used in the treatment systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and lupus nephritis (LN) to the Board. There was no public comment after review. A motion was made by K. Martian to manage these medications through prior authorization. The motion was seconded by A. Honeyman. Prior authorization criteria for these agents will be presented, reviewed, and voted on by the Board at the next meeting.

Retrospective Drug Utilization Review (RDUR) Criteria Recommendations

L. Morgan reviewed the RDUR criteria that were selected for review of each month of the last quarter. Presented data included number of profiles reviewed, number of cases identified for intervention, and the number of letters sent, as well as an overview of what RDUR interventions were identified as most prevalent for each monthly cycle. L. Morgan discussed the increase in letters sent during the months of July, August, and September and correlated the increase to the more relevant criteria. The recommended RDUR criteria enclosed in the packet were developed from product information provided by the manufacturers and are consistent with new indications, new drugs added, and new warnings. These proposed criteria will be added to the current set of criteria and will be used in future DUR cycles. Chair T. Schmidt moved to approve the new criteria and K. Peterson seconded the motion. Chair T. Schmidt called for a voice vote to approve the new criteria, which passed with all present members voting to approve.

Adjournment and Upcoming Meeting Date

Chair T. Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 2:20 pm. The next DUR Board meeting will be held March 2, 2021 at 1:00 pm at the state capitol building.