North Dakota Medicaid Drug Use Review (DUR) Board
Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2022

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

Medicaid Pharmacy Department: Alexi Murphy, Brendan Joyce, LeNeika Roehrich, Jeff Hostetter

Old Business

Chair T. Schmidt called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m.

DHHS Announcements

Chair T. Schmidt asked B. Joyce if there is a set date for the end of the public health emergency, in which he answered that there is no set date currently. Chair T. Schmidt followed up by asking if the end of the public health emergency would interfere with medication therapy management (MTM) services. B. Joyce answered that it would not affect MTM services, and they will continue to be covered.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair T. Schmidt asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2022, meeting. A. Werremeyer 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.

Budget Update

B. Joyce presented budget updates and the overall increase due to the increase in Medicaid member numbers. B. Joyce shared that in 2020, the pre-rebate spend was 79 million dollars and post-rebate was 22.5 million dollars. In 2021, the pre-rebate spend was 100 million dollars and post-rebate was 27 million dollars. For the first 3 quarters of 2022, the pre-rebate spend was 84 million and is projected to be 112 to 114 million dollars pre-rebate total spend for 2022. It is projected, the post-rebate spend will be around 32 million dollars for 2022. Thus, in one year, the total spending rose 14%. B. Joyce assured that this amount of growth is congruent with other Medicaid programs. Chair T. Schmidt asked B. Joyce what the difference in members between 2020 and 2022 is in which he answered that in the beginning of 2020 there was a total of 88 thousand members and as of October of 2022, there was a total of 127 thousand members. B. Joyce went on to discuss that the increase of total spend is not necessarily a result of the amount of members, but rather, the increase in medication cost and utilization of those medications.

Review Top 25 Drugs

B. Joyce presented 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 3rd quarter of 2022.

PDL/PA Criteria Updates

A. Murphy shared with the Board all the changes made to the Preferred Drug List (PDL) throughout the year 2022. Notable changes include removing Imitrex cartridge and nasal spray, Zomig nasal spray, Bromsite, Prolensa, and Rytary from PA.

Update to Prurigo Nodularis (Dupixent)
A. Murphy presented the criteria for Dupixent's new indication (prurigo nodularis). During public comment, Thu-Mai Duong, a representative of Dupixent, agreed with the criteria set forth for Dupixent therapy in prurigo nodularis; however, she expressed concern about the immunologic systemic therapy requirement for patients primarily since many patients with this disease state are elderly and it may pose a safety risk. There were no further comments from the Board members.

Update to Endometriosis Pain (Myfembree)
A. Murphy presented the criteria for Myfembree's new indication (endometriosis pain). Myfembree and Orilissa will now share the same criteria in the endometriosis pain category on the PDL. There were no further comments or questions.

Update to Hematopoietic Syndrome of Acute Raditaion Syndrome (NPlate)
A. Murphy presented the criteria for NPlate in the off-label use for Hematopoietic Syndrome of Acute Radiation Syndrome. There were no further comments or questions.

Second Review of Amyloidosis
A motion and second were made at the September 2022 DUR Board meeting to place agents for amyloidosis on prior authorization. Group criteria was presented to the Board by A. Murphy. Chair T. Schmidt called for a voice vote to approve the updated criteria, which passed with no audible dissent.

Second Review of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
A motion and second were made at the September 2022 DUR Board meeting to place agents for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis on prior authorization. Group criteria was presented to the Board by A. Murphy. Chair T. Schmidt called for a voice vote to approve the updated criteria, which passed with no audible dissent.

Second Review of Chelating Agents
A motion and second were made at the September 2022 DUR Board meeting to place agents for chelating agents on prior authorization. Group criteria was presented to the Board by A. Murphy. Chair T. Schmidt called for a voice vote to approve the updated criteria, which passed with no audible dissent.

Treatment follow-up Questions for Eosinophilic Esophagitis (EoE)
A. Murphy presented a document containing follow-up answers to questions asked at the September 2022 Board meeting that were not answered. During public comment, Thu-Mai Duong, a representative for Dupixent, had comments regarding the renewal criteria for Dupixent in EoE. Thu-Mai Duong expressed concerns for the requirement of an esophageal intraepithelial eosinophil count of ≤6 eos/hp in cases when a patient may have a count higher than 6 but has relief from Dupixent or vice versa. Thu-Mai Duong discussed that an esophageal intraepithelial eosinophil count is typically used for diagnosis but not for showing improvement in symptoms. A. Werremeyer followed up by asking if there were any quality-of-life assessments that were included in the trials regarding Dupixent use in EoE. Thu-Mai Duong answered that dysphagia and quality-of-life questionnaires were used in the study and stated she would follow-up with the questionnaires discussed.

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. A. Murphy discussed the major changes made in the preferred drug list (PDL) since the last update. Some of the most notable changes include adding criteria for medical billing only agents and preferring biosimilars of Remicade (Avsola and Renflexis). This list of changes is included in the handout, as well as, in the PDL. Chair T. Schmidt then called for any questions or concerns about the reviewed forms and criteria. G. Balf asked about the first-fill edit for ADHD medications and why these agents are limited initially. A. Murphy answered that the first-fill edit is utilized on few medications that one could notice soon after taking if it is therapeutic. The day supply of the first-fill is limited to ensure the member is on a therapeutic dose before paying for a full supply. Chair T. Schmidt asked for a motion to approve the updated PDL and PA forms. A. Werremeyer moved that the PDL and PA forms be approved, and K. Martian seconded the motion. The chair called for a voice vote to approve the PDL and PA forms. The motion passed with no audible dissent.

New Business

Discussion of RDUR Response Letter
S. Donald presented the RDUR response letters from the 3rd quarter of 2022. Most providers responded that the benefits of the drug outweigh the risks. Chair T. Schmidt discussed concerns of the low provider response rate and asked S. Donald how the rate of responses seen in North Dakota compared to other states. S. Donald stated that the rates are low across the board, but North Dakota is slightly lower than the average.

Retrospective Drug Utilization Review (RDUR) Criteria Recommendations
S. Donald reviewed the RDUR criteria that were selected for review of each month of the last quarter. Presented data included the 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. 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. K. Martian 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 2:37 pm. The next DUR Board meeting will be held March 1, 2023, at 1:00 pm at the state capitol building.