

## DRUG REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2021

### **DRC Meeting ZOOM Webinar**

#### **Board Members Present**

Laurence Miller, M.D.  
Daniel Pace, M.D.  
Chadwick Rodgers, M.D.  
Melissa Max, Pharm. D.

#### **Medicaid Staff Present**

Cindi Pearson, Pharm. D., Chair

#### **Magellan Staff Present**

Lynn Boudreaux, Pharm. D.  
Karen Evans, P.D.  
Lesley Irons, Pharm. D.

#### **Board Members Absent**

2 pharmacist positions vacant  
Grace Marable, Pharm. D

#### **PASSE Members Present**

Barry Fielder, Pharm. D.  
Shannon Burke, Pharm. D.  
Lauren Jimerson, Pharm. D.

Meeting held in a hybrid format with an in-person option and virtual option by ZOOM Webinar. All committee members, Medicaid staff, and Dr. Boudreaux were considered panelists. A quorum was present, and the Chair called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.

### **I. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Public meeting was recorded. All virtual attendees were muted.
- b. Committee members and DHS staff were able to speak at any time.
- c. Robert's Rules of Order were used to conduct business.
- d. Voting on motions was performed by roll call.

### **II. SPEAKERS**

None

### **III. UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS OR GENERAL INFORMATION**

- 1) Chair read the Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest Statement. Drs. Miller and Rodgers emailed their signed form prior to the meeting. Chair took verbal confirmation from Drs. Pace and Max. No conflicts were declared by the committee members, Dr. Boudreaux, or chair.
- 2) Update on meeting location—No decision has been made for the November 2021 meeting, but a meeting room is available in the DHS Donaghey South building if needed.
- 3) New Arkansas Total Care pharmacist—Barry Fielder, Pharm. D.
- 4) Meeting minutes for the May 2021 DRC meeting were discussed.  
Motion by Dr. Rodgers to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Dr. Max; All members present voted for the motion. Motion passed.
- 5) Update on PDL implementation from May 2021 DRC meeting and update from July 2021 DUR meeting:
  - a. PDL updates were effective 7/1/2021—colony stimulating factors, lipotropic agents (statins), narcolepsy agents, phosphate binders, and platelet aggregation inhibitors

## DRUG REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2021

- b. DUR PA manual review drugs were effective immediately: Verquvo™, Fotivda®, Lumakras™, Empaveli™, Truseltiq™, Hetlioz®
    - c. DUR POS edits: ADHD update, ICS-LABA, Lyrica (fibromyalgia), polypharmacy edits
- 6) DRC bylaws were reviewed.

An update was made to include a virtual option for DRC meetings. A motion to accept the updated bylaws as presented was made by Dr. Miller; seconded by Dr. Pace. All members present voted for the motion. Bylaws were updated as presented.
- 7) DRC committee was notified of new criteria for medications new-to-market or with label expansions which complies with Act 745 of the 2021 legislative session.

### IV. NEW BUSINESS

#### 1) ALZHEIMER'S AGENTS

Alzheimer's agents are a new PDL class. Chair provided information on Alzheimer's disease medications, DUR Board approved POS edits, DUR Board approved extended release edit, and quantity edits (dose optimization). Dr. Boudreaux presented a PowerPoint with the following information.

- a) FDA approved indications for all Alzheimer's agents
- b) Overview of general dementia
- c) Overview of dementia due to Alzheimer's disease
- d) 2008/2013 American College of Physician's and Academy of Family Physician's Guidelines
- e) Overview of Parkinson's disease
- f) Claims summary from 1/1/2020-12/31/2020.

#### DISCUSSION:

Dr. Max asked for an explanation for the process for claims for this class. The Chair noted that the IR formulations are available without a PA, and the ER formulations require a PA. Dr. Max asked the physicians on the panel if an ER formulation as a preferred option would be beneficial for our patients. Dr. Pace stated he hasn't had an issue with IR formulations in his practice. Dr. Rodgers stated that if the IR formulations are efficacious and comparable to the ER formulations, most people do fine. It is nice to have an ER option, but it is not always necessary. Dr. Miller agreed. Dr. Rodgers referenced the claim counts with cost effectiveness for donepezil and memantine. He felt those two products should be preferred and have rivastigmine available for Parkinson's disease. In his practice, Dr. Pace stated he uses donepezil for mild cases and moves to memantine for more severe cases. Dr. Rodgers asked Dr. Pace if there is a standardized scoring method to determine severity of illness.

#### ACTION:

Motion to approve best options for the state with acetylcholinesterase inhibitor (donepezil) and NMDA receptor antagonist (memantine) preferred options was made by Dr. Rodgers; seconded by Dr. Pace. All voting members present voted for the motion. Motion passed.

#### 2) BENIGN PROSTATIC HYPERPLASIA

## DRUG REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2021

This review is a renewal of the benign prostatic hyperplasia class. Chair provided information on BPH, medications used for BPH, and current PDL list for all products. Dr. Boudreaux presented a PowerPoint with the following information.

- a) FDA approved indications for BPH agents
- b) Overview of BPH
- c) American Urological Association 2010/2014 standards
- d) Claims summary from 1/1/2020-12/31/2020

### **DISCUSSION:**

Dr. Pace stated that in his practice his first option is usually tamsulosin followed by finasteride which are cheap, good options. Those two products should remain on the preferred list. Dr. Max agreed that Dr. Pace's comments are reasonable. Dr. Miller stated he would keep the preferred list as it is currently.

### **ACTION:**

Motion to approve as current PDL status or best options for the state was made by Dr. Miller; seconded by Dr. Rodgers. All voting members present voted for the motion. Motion passed.

### **3) HEMORRHOIDAL PREPARATIONS**

The hemorrhoidal preparations class will be a new PDL class. Chair provided information on hemorrhoids and current list for all products with approval criteria for the agents requiring a PA. Dr. Boudreaux presented a PowerPoint with the following information.

- a) FDA approved indications for hemorrhoid preparations
- b) Claims summary from 1/1/2020-12/31/2020.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Dr. Rodgers stated that all the products currently available without a PA meet his needs as a practitioner, and he would be supportive of a cheaper generic if available. Dr. Pace agreed.

### **ACTION:**

Motion to approve preferred options as medications currently not requiring a PA or best options for the state was made by Dr. Rodgers; seconded by Dr. Pace. All voting members present voted for the motion. Motion passed. Addendum—Dr. Rodgers noted Cortifoam would either require a PA or have POS edits.

### **4) OPIATE DEPENDENCE AGENTS**

This review is a renewal of the opiate dependence class. Chair provided information on opioid use disorder, information on medication assisted treatment, information on Act 964 of 2019, and current PDL list for all products. Dr. Boudreaux presented a PowerPoint with the following information.

- a) FDA approved indications for buprenorphine products

## DRUG REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2021

- b) Overview of substance abuse
- c) Overview of methadone treatment
- d) Overview of buprenorphine treatment
- e) Pharmacology of buprenorphine
- f) Claims summary from 1/1/2020-12/31/2020.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Chair stated that our utilization increased greatly when PA requirements were removed. All the products have the same ingredients, so it may not matter which are preferred. Dr. Miller suggested to keep the list as is. He was concerned about the removal of the PA requirement due to patients using these agents for pain instead of opiate abuse. Dr. Rodgers was surprised by the \$4 million expenditure. Dr. Rodgers stated that providers with AFMC have been happy with easier access to these products.

### **ACTION:**

Motion to approve as current PDL status was made by Dr. Miller; seconded by Dr. Rodgers. All voting members present voted for the motion. Motion passed.

## **5) SKELETAL MUSCLE RELAXANTS**

This review is a renewal of the skeletal muscle relaxant class. Chair provided information on skeletal muscle relaxants, quantity edits, and current preferred drug list for all products. Dr. Boudreaux presented a PowerPoint with the following information.

- a) FDA approved indications for skeletal muscle relaxants
- b) Overview of skeletal muscle relaxants
- c) Evidence based medicine for tizanidine and baclofen
- d) Claims summary from 1/1/2020-12/31/2020.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Dr. Max stated that this is a cost issue and preferred options should contain different agents from each class. The Chair agreed with Dr. Max since the effectiveness is basically the same with little difference in side effects. Dr. Rodgers stated that the current preferred list is what he would expect except for chlorzoxazone. Dr. Max agreed with little use for chlorzoxazone. The Chair noted that in 2020 there were 845 claims for chlorzoxazone. Dr. Pace made the motion to keep the preferred list as is.

### **ACTION:**

Motion to approve as current PDL status or best options for the state was made by Dr. Pace; seconded by Dr. Max. All voting members present voted for the motion. Motion passed.

**V. Chair provided schedule of future DRC meeting dates.**

**VI. Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:25 a.m.**