

**Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM)
Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board
Quarterly Meeting
November 18, 2014**

The quarterly meeting of the ODM DUR Board was called to order at 12:04 PM in rooms South B&C on the 31st Floor of the Riffe Center, 77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio. Donald Sullivan, RPh, PhD, presided. The following Board members were present:

David Brookover, RPh,
Michael Farrell, MD
Robert Kubasak, RPh
J. Layne Moore, MD
Lenard Presutti, DO
Donald Sullivan, RPh, PhD

Also present were Pam Heaton, RPh, PhD, from the University Of Cincinnati College Of Pharmacy; Margaret Scott, RPh, DUR Administrator, Jill Griffith, RPh, DUR Director, Mike Howcroft RPh, and Patti Nussle RPh, from ODM. Approximately 15 observers were present, most representing pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Reading, Correction & Approval of Previous Minutes:

The September 16th, 2014, DUR Board minutes were approved. (1st D. Brookover, 2nd L. Moore).

Health Plan Policy:

M. Scott announced that the pharmacy unit has moved from health plan policy to the Office of Clinical Quality and Research, now reporting to Dr. Mary Applegate. With this move, pharmacy staff have a broader focus on quality within the Medicaid program.

DUR Committee Report:

J. Griffith announced that the October DUR Committee continued to focus on review of patients with high morphine equivalent doses (MED). Each pharmacist follows a specific group of patients monthly. New patients are assigned or removed from review as clinically indicated. The Committee reviewed a draft intervention letter directed to the prescribers of these patients if intervention is deemed necessary. The October DUR Committee also reviewed statistics on Fee for Service (FFS) patients who might be taking aripiprazole (Abilify) more than once daily. Abilify has a half-life of 75 hours and should be given once daily. It has a flat pricing structure, meaning that most tablet strengths cost the same amount and that giving a dose twice daily and using 60 tablets monthly costs twice as much as using 30 tablets per month with once daily dosing. Dr. Heaton generated profiles for 584 patients who appear to be taking Abilify more than once daily for the November DUR Committee to review. The Committee also provided edits on a draft intervention letter directed to the prescribers of these patients. Dr. Sullivan noted that Partners for Kids (PFK) at Nationwide Children's Hospital saved \$150,000 on Abilify by limiting to once daily dosing. Ms. Scott said that ODM is working with PFK to understand the initiative.

Additionally, after closer review of FFS data, we do not have many patients taking a long-acting stimulant and benzodiazepine concurrently. We will not review profiles on that topic. Finally, the federal fiscal year 2013 annual DUR reports are not available in a printable format. J Griffith will share the report when available.

Elections:

Elections were held for Chair and Co-Chair. The Board elected Michael Farrell, MD, as Chair and J. Layne Moore, MD, as Co-Chair.

Unfinished Business:

M. Howcroft provided updates on antipsychotic use in long-term care facilities and psychotropic use in children. More information will be available at the first of the year regarding both projects. M. Howcroft said that the workgroup planned visits to nursing facilities that were performing the worst. J. Moore suggested also visiting the facilities that are performing the best. P. Heaton noted that some literature indicates that as nursing staff are cut, the amount of psychotropics increases. D. Sullivan suggested these initiatives would be good psychiatric pharmacy practice residency projects.

The Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team continues to work on Guideline development, and will be focusing on prescribing guidelines for acute pain in the first half of 2015. M. Farrell noted that in adolescents, acute pain can start a problem of opiate use that can last for years.

Announcements:

M. Scott announced that Kevin Mitchell, RPh is stepping down from the DUR Board. The State will seek recommendations to replace him from professional pharmacy organizations. The first quarter DUR Board meeting will be on February 17th, 2015 and the second quarter meeting on May 19th 2015 (rooms to be determined).

Adjournment:

D. Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 12:31 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Jill RK Griffith BS, PharmD, DUR Program Director