



**Executive Office of Health and Human Services
RI Department of Human Services
Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 4, 2017
10:30 a.m.**

DUR Board Members Attending Richard Wagner, MD
Michelle Booth, PharmD (NHPRI)
Linda Rowe-Varone, PharmD, BCPP
Steve Kogut, PhD, MBA, RPh (URI)
Jerry Fingerut, MD (Xerox)

Others Attending Karen Mariano, RPh (DXC Technology)
Heather Kissinger, PharmD (HID)

The meeting began at 10:30 a.m., and the minutes of the December 13, 2016 meeting were approved pending the Board's acceptance.

DUR Topics for Follow-Up

The Board reviewed DUR Topics for Follow-Up addressing changes in prescribing patterns since the provider education letters were mailed mid-March 2017. These results have been continuously reviewed since the last Board meeting.

For the letter addressing patients who are taking a short-acting analgesic in the absence of a long-acting analgesic, 101 recipients were identified. Letters were sent on March 15th and follow-up regarding responses will be reviewed in June. The Board requested a report on this topic to show the impact of the intervention in terms of recipients who responded positively to the intervention. Heather stated she would follow-up at the June meeting with the requested report. The Board requested to know what specific guideline was cited in the letter to prescribers. Heather stated she would follow-up with that information during the June meeting.

For the letter addressing the concurrent use of an antipsychotic and a stimulant, 24 recipients were identified. Letters were sent on March 15th and follow-up regarding responses will be reviewed in June. The Board requested a report on this topic to show the impact of the intervention in terms of recipients who responded positively to the intervention. Heather stated she would follow-up at the June meeting with the requested report.

For the letter addressing patients receiving 60 - 120 morphine milliequivalents (MME), 111 recipients were identified. Heather presented a mock-up of the targeted intervention letter for DUR Board approval. The Board requested to wait on sending the letter until specifics about the identified recipients could be reviewed, such as, diagnoses and length of use. Heather stated she would follow-up with the requested information in June.

Outside of the 3 requested specialty mailing requests, Heather presented information regarding 4 additional follow-up items for 4th quarter claims; the concurrent use of benzodiazepines and other anxiolytics, EpiPen utilization, antipsychotic use and post-traumatic stress disorder, and utilization of antipsychotics under the indicated age.

During 4th quarter 2016, 559 recipients were on a benzodiazepine and 62 recipients were on another anxiolytic. 21 recipients hit on duplicate therapy. The Board requested to discontinue this query as it was not an issue for the FFS population. The Board requested to review concurrent opioid and benzodiazepine therapy during June. Heather stated she would follow-up in June.

Heather reviewed EpiPen utilization during 4th quarter 2016. As anticipated, a larger number of claims was observed in the third quarter. There were 97 unique recipients found to be receiving 109 unique prescriptions during 4th quarter. The Board requested to discontinue this query and resume during 3rd QTR 2017 as it was not an issue for the FFS population.

Heather presented an analysis of antipsychotic use and post-traumatic stress disorder diagnosis. 19 recipients were identified as having a diagnosis for post-traumatic stress disorder and currently taking an antipsychotic during 4th quarter 2016. The Board requested to discontinue this query going forward as it was not an issue for the FFS population.

Heather presented a slide showing the utilization of antipsychotics under the indicated age during 4th quarter 2016. The qualifying recipients decreased from previous quarter from 24 to 20. The Board requested to continue this query going forward and also to review duplicate antipsychotics in the pediatric population and report back during the June meeting. Heather stated she would follow-up in June.

ADURS (American Drug Utilization Review Society) Topics

The Board reviewed slides that presented the ADURS topics for 4th Quarter 2016. Heather explained that ADURS stands for the American Drug Utilization Review Society ADURS and is a non-profit entity that supports individuals active in drug utilization review (DUR) from the 50 State Medicaid programs. The mission of ADURS is to provide a forum of leadership and support for its members. 50 State pharmacists and 50 RDUR vendors participate in a list serve that connects RDUR programs through a forum where people can share thoughts and ideas about their RDUR and overall Medicaid programs. It is a resource for news and ideas around RDUR topics and HID/HPE decided to include select ADURS topics as part of the Board meeting discussions as some of the topics pertain to what's going on in our state. Heather continued to introduce the two ADURS topics for 4th quarter as; Buprenorphine-Naloxone Utilization and Hepatitis C Therapy with concurrent drug/alcohol use diagnosis. The Board reviewed the ADURS topics for 4th QTR and agreed to continue to monitor these topics as needed.

Top 25 Medications – 4th Quarter

The Board reviewed a slide that presented the top 25 medications by utilization during 4th Quarter 2016.

Top 50 Prescribers of Controlled Substances – 4th Quarter

The Board reviewed a slide that presented the top 50 prescribers of controlled substances for 4th QTR 2016. The Board requested to mask the prescriber identifiers (name, address, etc.) but to include the provider specialty for the June meeting. An additional request was to show the specific prescriptions and counts for the top prescriber on the list during the June meeting. Heather stated she would follow-up in June.

Opioid Utilization Report – 4th Quarter

The Board reviewed a slide that presented long and short acting opioid utilization during 4th QTR 2016. Heather noted that there was a large decrease in utilization between 3rd and 4th QTR and questioned if it had to do with the recipient ID issue on the recipient extracts received from HPE. She stated she would follow-up with an explanation during the June meeting.

Proposed DUR Criteria for Review – 4th Quarter

The Board reviewed three slides that presented new RDUR criteria for the quarter. The Board approved all criteria contingent upon Karen's review. The Board requested additional criteria for black box warnings to be approved and reviewed for the RI FFS population.

FFY 2016 CMS Report Update

Heather gave a brief update regarding the FFY 2016 CMS report and noted that it would be reviewed with the Board during the June meeting.

Meeting Confirmation and Adjournment

The next DUR Board meeting was confirmed as June 13, 2017. The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.