



**Division of Health Care, Quality, Financing and Purchasing
Center for Operations and Pharmacy Management
Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday December 4, 2007
8:00 AM
EDS
171 Service Avenue Building 1 Suite 100
Warwick, Rhode Island**

P&T Members Present:

Tara Higgins, RPh, CGP, CDOE
Rita Marcoux, RPh, MBA, Co-chairperson
Kristina Ward, Pharm D
David Feeney, RPh, Chairperson
Gregory Allen, MD
L. McTyeire Johnston, MD
Richard Wagner, MD
Mathew Salisbury, MD
Charles Gross

Others Present:

Paula Avarista, RPh, MBA (RI Medical Assistance Program)
Ray Maxim, MD (RI Medical Assistance)
Gail Davis, RN (Electronic Data Systems)
Ann Bennett (Electronic Data Systems)
Karen Mariano, RPh (Electronic Data Systems)
Chris Andrews, Pharm D (Coventry Health Systems)
Raquel Holmes, RPh (Coventry Health Systems)

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Feeney at 8:05 AM. After welcoming and introductory remarks, the public comments portion began. Representatives from the following Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Companies gave presentations: Ortho McNeil-Janssen, Forrest, Eli Lilly, Daiichi Sankyo, Glaxo Smith Kline, Schering-Plough, Pfizer. Also presentations were given by Penny Ferrara, NAMI-Rhode Island, Barbara LeClerc, RN-Gateway, Charles Feldman-Save Our Mental Health Coalition, Paula Drzal, RN-Gateway, Terrie Mailhot, MD

Chris Andrews from Coventry Health Systems gave an overview of the drug classes that were on the agenda to be reviewed. A discussion among the committee members followed each class review. Voting took place at the end of each review. Since this was the one year anniversary of the PDL, rereview of classes would now begin. The anti-hypertensives were now rereviewed. The committee agreed with the recommendations of First Health. There would be no changes from the current list. For the Alzheimer Medications, the committee was split on the decision to keep Exelon Patches as non-preferred as recommended by First Health. Those in favor of making it preferred felt it had less side effects than the oral formulation. Chair-Person Feeney then voted against adding it as preferred. It was then decided that the patch would be covered as a step-edit if the person tried and failed the oral formulation. In the anti-depressant class it was decided that those people currently on Lexapro would be grandfathered in and any new people would have a step edit of a failure of Citalopram. The rest of the class was approved as presented.

In the area of CNS stimulants the Committee disagreed with adding Vyvanse as a preferred product as recommended by First Health. They did not see the need for adding another drug in this class. They did however agree to add Strattera which was not recommended by First Health. They felt a non-scheduled medication would be beneficial to have for those people who might have a problem with a stimulant medication.

The statin class was reviewed again due to changes in the cost of generic Simvastatin compared to the last time this class was reviewed in April 2007. It was decided that Lipitor would no longer be preferred but those people currently on Lipitor 80mg would be grandfathered in. Crestor would now be covered after a failure of Simvastatin.

The chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:020 AM.