

**Division of Health Care, Quality, Financing and Purchasing  
Center for Operations and Pharmacy Management  
Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday June 3, 2008**

**8:00 AM**

**EDS**

**171 Service Avenue Building 1 Suite 100  
Warwick, Rhode Island**



**P&T Members Present:** Tara Higgins, RPh, CGP, CDOE  
Kristina Ward, Pharm D  
David Feeney, RPh, Chairperson  
Gregory Allen, MD  
L. McIntyiere Johnston, MD  
Richard Wagner, MD  
Charles Gross  
Rita Marcoux, RPh, Co-Chairperson

**Others Present:** Paula Avarista, RPh, MBA (RI Medical Assistance Program)  
Ray Maxim, MD (RI Medical Assistance Program)  
Karen Mariano, RPh (Electronic Data Systems)  
Ann Bennett (Electronic Data Systems)  
Raquel Holmes, RPh (First Health/Coventry Health Systems)

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Feeney at 8:05 AM. After welcoming and introductory remarks, the meeting minutes of the April 8, 2008 meeting were reviewed. All members voted in favor to accept the minutes as presented. The public comment portion of the meeting began. Representatives from the following Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Companies gave presentations: Schering-Plough, Sanofi-Aventis, Shire, Astra-Zeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, Takeda, Pfizer, Boehringer Ingelheim and Merck & Co. Also a presentation was given Dr. Gary L'Europa.

Raquel Holmes from First Health gave the presentations of the drug classes to be reviewed. A discussion among the committee members followed each class review. Voting took place at the end of each review. A re-review of the following drug classes were done: Respiratory, both oral and inhaled; CNS agents; and anti-infectives.

In the non-sedating, anti-histamine class class, Zyrtec is now available OTC and generic. It was changed to preferred status. New drugs in the class, Xyzal and Allegra ODT, were reviewed. Since they had no added beneficial effect than drugs already covered there were put in as non-preferred as presented by First Health. Changes also occurred concerning the long-acting, inhaled beta-agonists. The status of the 2 drugs in this class was changed from non-preferred to covered with a step-edit. The committee members wanted to insure that patients were being treated properly before these drugs were approved. In the short-acting inhaled beta-agonist class, Xopenex HFA was moved to

non-preferred. Existing patients would be grandfathered in. In the inhaled glucocorticoid class the new drug is Symbicort. The committee did not see a need to add this drug as preferred at this time. It will remain non-preferred. In the inhaled rhinitis class, the new drug in this class, Omnaris, will remain non-preferred. For the Leukotriene modifier class, the existing preferred drugs will remain the same and the new drug Zyflo CR will be non-preferred.

In the anti-migraine medication First Health had recommended the new drug in the class, Treximet, be covered. The committee did not see a need to add it in at this time so it will remain as non-preferred.

The following classes were re-reviewed and no changes were made to the current status of preferred and non-preferred drugs: Sedative Hypnotics, Long-acting Narcotics, and anti-infectives.

The only new class that was reviewed was Ulcerative Colitis. The committee agreed with the recommendations from First Health.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2008.