

**Division of Health Care, Quality, Financing and Purchasing
Center for Operations and Pharmacy Management
Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday September 2, 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
Mathew Salisbury, MD
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 June 4, 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: Eli Lilly, Allergan, Janssen, Astellas, Roche, Schering-Plough, Shire, Astra-Zeneca, GlaxoSmithKline and Pfizer. Presentations were given by representatives from MHCA/Oasis, Save Our Mental Health, The Mental Health Association of RI, RI Psychiatric Society, NAMI-RI, Quality Behavioral Health, NRI Community Services and NAMI-RI

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 rereview of the following drug classes were done: narcotic analgesics- short acting, influenza agents, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory –oral, anti-viral agents-herpes, atopic dermatitis-topical, bladder relaxants, benign prostatic hyperplasia, cytokine and calmodulin antagonists, erythropoietins, hepatitis agents, ophthalmic agents (infection, glaucoma and allergy), phosphate binders, and otic antibiotics. It was recommended by DHS and First Health to remove the narcotic analgesic agents-short acting and the influenza products from the PDL. All the drugs products in the short-acting narcotic analgesics were now generic and there would

be no supplemental rebates in the class. The removal of the influenza drug class was in response to recommendations from the Department of Health. Other changes to existing classes were addition of Sancturia/XR to the bladder relaxant drug class, removal of Mobic from the NSAID class (drug now available generically, no rebate on brand) and a change in status of Epogen to non-preferred in the erythropoietin drug class. First Health recommended the change in status from non-preferred to preferred for Ribasphere in the Hepatitis C Agents drug class. The Committee did not see a need to change this drug from non-preferred to preferred. The Committee agreed with the rest of the recommendations brought forth for the existing drug classes.

There were three new drug classes reviewed; topical antivirals, androgenic agents and atypical antipsychotics. The Committee agreed with the recommendations for the topical antivirals and androgenic agents.

There was much discussion for the remaining drug class. The Committee discussed the grandfathering and lookback for the non-preferred agents. They decided on a 3 month look back for an existing prescription for a non-preferred agent and a 24 month lookback for a preferred agent when presented with a prescription for a non-preferred agent. After further discussion, the Committee decided on having all drugs within the class as preferred. This was in contrast to the recommendations of First Health.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45. The next meeting is December 2, 2008.