



**Executive Office of Health and Human Services
RI Department of Human Services
Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 8, 2021
10:30 a.m.**

DUR Board Members Attending	Richard Wagner, MD (Brown) Jerry Fingerut (EOHHS) Linda Rowe-Varone, PharmD, BCPP Steve Kogut, PhD, MBA, RPh (URI) Mark Lorson, PharmD, BCACP, BCGP (NHPRI)
Others Attending	Karen Mariano, RPh (Gainwell Technologies) Ann Bennett, MHSA (Gainwell Technologies) Heather Kissinger, PharmD (HID)

The meeting began at 10:35 a.m. The minutes of the April meeting were tabled following an email vote.

DUR Topics for Follow-Up

The Board reviewed Prescribing Patterns after provider education mailings.

For the letter addressing the concurrent use of benzodiazepines and opiates, 7 recipients were identified and reviewed, and 7 cases were created during 1st quarter 2021. No responses have been received so far. Denominators included 243 recipients receiving benzodiazepines and 155 recipients receiving opioid prescriptions. Benchmarking against another state showed 28,000 recipients receiving a benzodiazepine, 30,000 patients receiving an opioid, and 5,000 receiving concurrent therapy. The Board requested to continue the concurrent opioid and benzodiazepine targeted intervention going forward and benchmark against another state using percent of population. HID would follow-up in September.

Utilization of atypical antipsychotics under the indicated age during 1st quarter 2021 was presented to the Board, 7 recipients were identified during 1st quarter. Benchmarking against another state showed 10,835 recipients receiving atypical antipsychotics under the indicated age. The Board requested to continue tracking this issue going forward and to include benchmarking against another state using percent of population. HID would follow-up in September.

For the intervention addressing recipients receiving > 90 MME (Morphine Milligram Equivalent) daily, 2 recipients were identified, and 2 cases were created during 1st quarter 2021. No responses have been received so far and the denominator was 155 unique recipients received an opioid. Additionally, HID reported as follow-up that 19 recipients were identified, and 19 cases were created during the entire year lookback with a denominator of 543 recipients receiving an opioid during 2020. Neighborhood provided a brief synopsis on requirements of HR-6 and how it affects edits being developed for Rhode Island's managed care organizations regarding opioid utilization. The Board requested to continue tracking this issue going forward and review the 19 recipients identified during 2020 to determine location. HID would follow-up in September.

For the intervention addressing stimulant exceeds max dose, 22 unique recipients were identified, and 22 cases were created during 1st quarter 2021. 6 responses have been received so far and the denominator was 464 unique recipients received a stimulant. Per follow-up, HID reported a breakdown

of all recipients who were identified by the stimulant max dose criteria for 1st quarter data, including age, medication, dose received, and specifically recipients \geq 40 years of age receiving stimulants exceeding the max dose with a history or risk of cardiovascular disease. HID reported that benchmarking against another state was not an option due to the same criteria not being active in other states. Neighborhood reported that they discussed enacting quantity limits on stimulants but due to COVID the project was put on hold. The Board requested HID to repeat the mailer for 2nd quarter 2021 and report on any prescriber trends identified. HID would follow-up in September.

For the request to review patients receiving an opioid with no naloxone, 8 recipients and 8 cases were created with no responses received during 1st quarter 2021. Denominator for opioid utilization during 1st quarter was 155 unique recipients. The Board requested to modify the criteria to look back 365 days for naloxone use and to also add a lookback of 365 days to the poisoning diagnosis in the alternate opioid non naloxone criteria. The Board requested to continue the mailer for 2nd quarter 2021. HID would follow-up in September.

For the intervention addressing tramadol utilization, HID reported that 21 unique recipients received 48 total prescriptions for tramadol products during 1st quarter 2021. 1 unique recipient was targeted for concurrent use of tramadol with sertraline which can increase the risk of seizure. The Board requested references used for the tramadol/sertraline criteria and to view all tramadol criteria to determine if any needed to be suppressed. HID would follow-up via email. The Board requested to continue review of the tramadol criteria for intervention on a monthly basis. HID would follow-up in September.

Outside of the requested specialty mailing requests, HID presented information regarding 4 additional follow-up items: naloxone utilization, movement disorder/tardive dyskinesia medication utilization, SGLT-2 and GLP-1 agent utilization, and chronic PPI utilization.

For the follow-up item addressing naloxone utilization, HID reported that 37 prescriptions were filled for 37 unique recipients during 1st quarter 2021. The Board requested HID to continue utilization review and include benchmarking against another state using percent of population. HID would follow up in September.

For the follow-up item addressing the newer movement disorder/tardive dyskinesia medication utilization, HID reported that 1 unique recipient received Austedo during 1st quarter 2021. Recipient specifics were shared with the Board, including dose, concurrent antipsychotics received, and relevant diagnoses. The Board discussed a recent article and video about a patient who was receiving aripiprazole who developed tardive dyskinesia. The Board requested to continue tracking utilization for 2nd quarter 2021 and include prescriber specialty for the movement disorder medications. HID would follow-up in September.

For the follow-up item addressing the utilization of SGLT-2 and GLP-1 agents, HID reported that 33 unique recipients received these agents during 1st quarter 2021. Per follow-up, HID reported that 30 recipients had a diagnosis of diabetes, 1 recipient had a diagnosis of cardiovascular disease without diabetes, and 2 recipients did not have any diagnosis data or other medications that would indicate the indication for use. The Board requested to know if any prescriptions for Rybelsus were filled during 1st quarter. HID stated there were no prescriptions filled for Rybelsus during the quarter. Neighborhood commented that utilization for Rybelsus remains low and the injectable GLP-1 agonists have more utilization, potentially due to once weekly administration. The Board requested to continue tracking utilization for 2nd quarter 2021. HID would follow-up in September.

For the follow-up item addressing the chronic PPI utilization, HID reported that 18 unique recipients received a PPI in the past 365 days for ≥ 365 days. The denominator was 1,236 unique recipients received a PPI prescription for any length of time in the previous 365 days. HID reported that a specialty mailer for this topic was performed in 2019, targeting 50 unique recipients (denominator 1,490). HID requested to know if the Board wanted to send a specialty mailer on this topic. The Board did not request to send a specialty mailer and requested to discontinue tracking going forward.

ADURS (American Drug Utilization Review Society) Topics

The Board reviewed slides that presented recent ADURS topics. Topics reviewed included: the hypoglycemia antidotes, Abilify Mycite, and stimulant limits.

Top 10 Medications by Utilization & by Pharmacy Paid Amount

The Board reviewed slides that presented the top 10 medications by utilization and by pharmacy paid amount during 1st quarter 2021.

High Volume Prescribers of Opioids

The Board reviewed a slide that presented high volume prescribers of opioids for 1st quarter 2021. The Board requested to continue tracking the high volume prescribers on a quarterly basis.

Opioid Utilization Report

The Board reviewed slides that presented long and short acting opioid utilization during 1st quarter 2021. Overall number of claims compared to the number of claims for short acting and long acting agents was reviewed. Neighborhood commented that their recipients who utilize multiple prescribers for opioids and benzodiazepines has been on the decline and discussed the potential for a more in depth review of these recipients to determine if there is a shift to illicit substance abuse and overdose.

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020 CMS Report

HID provided a brief overview of the summaries included in the FFY 2020 CMS report that would be submitted to CMS by the end of June.

Meeting Confirmation and Adjournment

The remainder of the 2021 DUR meetings were confirmed as: September 21st and December 14th. The meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.