The Executive Office of Health & Human Services

Fee for Service: Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 2nd , 2026
Registration 7:30 AM Meeting 8:00 AM

Meeting Location: EOHHS Virks Building,
3 West Rd, Cranston, RI 02920
Virks Training Room 1st Floor

P & T Members Present:

Todd Brothers, PharmD, RPh
Sarah Fessler, MD
Nickolai Morin, PharmD
Bill Quirk, RPh
Matt Salisbury, MD
Tracey Taviera, PharmD, RPh
Rick Wagner, MD

Non-Committee Individuals Present:

Ann Bennett, MHSA (Gainwell Technologies)
Jerry Fingerut, MD (EOHHS)
Karen Mariano, RPh (Gainwell Technologies)
Kathryn Novak, RPh, MBA (Prime Therapeutics)
Collette Onyejekwe, PharmD, RPh, MPH (EOHHS)

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson once a quorum was in attendance - 8:03 am.
Chairperson Tracey Taveira called the meeting to order and asked for introductions from both the committee and individuals supporting the committee meeting.

Meeting Minutes – April 2026
The previous meeting minutes were reviewed and by vote were unanimously approved as presented.

Public testimony included the following speakers, their affiliations, and topics.
Follow up information should be sent to karen.mariano@gainwelltechnologies.com for distribution to the committee.

	Speaker	Affiliation	Topic
1	Christine Dube	Astra Zeneca	Fasenra, Breztri & Airsupra
2	Thomas Kortschinsky	UCIS	Bimzelx
3	Carla McSpadden	Galderma	Nemluvio
4	Joe Cirrincione	Opzelura	Incyte
5	Alan Nguyen	Gilead	Epclusa & authorized generic (AG)
6	Christopher Yuen	J & J	Icotyde
7	Elizabeth Lubelczyk	Lilly	Ebglyss
8	Jeffrey Baldwin	Amgen	Tezspire
9	Ike Urhughide	ARS	Neffy
10	Annie Vong	Abbvie	RInvoq, Skyrizzi & Mavyret

Prime Therapeutics presented the following categories for therapeutic class reviews with discussion from the pharmacy and therapeutics committee.

Therapeutic Class & Drug Reviews			PDL Compliance	Information/ Recommendation	Discussion	Vote: Yes	Vote: No	Abstain
a. Anti-infective								
	i	Antibiotics, GI	98%	No new information. No recommended changes to the category.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	ii	Antibiotics, Vaginal	100%	No new information. Recommend adding Xaciato as a preferred drug.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	iii	Antifungals, Oral	99%	Noxafil has expanded pediatric indication. Product discontinuation Sporonox brand; generics remain available. No recommended changes to the category.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	iv	Antivirals, HSV		No new information. No recommended changes to the category.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	v	Antivirals, Influenza & COVID	100%	No new information. No recommended changes to the sub-categories.	Are we aware of any states that have taken Paxlovid to non-preferred status? No. If a prescriber determines that the patient is high risk and Paxlovid would be appropriate, then a PA would be needed if this would be non-preferred. This is the only product available; PA would delay treatment, a concern even if for a day. Recognize COVID vaccine rates are down. The recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	vi	Cephalosporins & Related Antibiotics	95%	No new information. No recommended changes to the category.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	vii	Fluoroquinolones	100%	No new information. No recommended changes to the category.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	viii	Hepatitis C Agents	NA	Expanded indication Mavyret. Product discontinuation Zepatier; no generics for Zepatier. No recommended changes to the category.	RI has policy to eradicate Hepatitis C; long term eradication. Have not seen information on re-infection. Recommendations accepted as presented	all		
	ix	HIV Agents	100%	No new information. No recommended changes to the category.	Do any states manage HIV category? Yes. Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	x	Macrolides & Ketolides	96%	Product discontinuation Zithromax 250 & 500 mg tabs. Z-Pak available. Recommend erythromycin base tablets be preferred & erythromycin base DR capsules be non-preferred.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	xi	Tetracyclines, Oral	100%	No new information. No recommended changes to the category.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		

Prime Therapeutics presented the following categories for therapeutic class reviews with discussion from the pharmacy and therapeutics committee (continued).

Therapeutic Class & Drug Reviews			PDL Compliance	Information/ Recommendation	Discussion	Vote: Yes	Vote: No	Abstain
b. CNS								
	i	MS Agents	0%	New generic for Mavenclad. Recommend Kesimpta be non-preferred.	Do other States prefer Tysabri? Medication is IV a would be billed medically. Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
c. Dermatological								
	i	Acne Agents, Topical	70%	No new information. Recommendation add Adapalene gel as preferred agent.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	ii	Antibiotics, Topical	100%	No new information. No recommended changes to the category.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	iii	Antifungal, Topical	92%	No new information. No recommended changes to the category.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	iv	Antipsoriatics, Topical	100%	No new information. No recommended changes to the category.	Some newer agents benefit from step therapy. Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	v	Antiviral Agents, Topical	NA	No new information. No recommended changes to the category.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	vi	Immunomodulators, Atopic Dermatitis	58%	New product Anzupgo for moderate-severe chronic hand eczema. New indications for Dupixent and Zoryve. New strength Zoryve. Recommend add Ebglyss as preferred agent.	Observation of low numbers. Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	vii	Immunomodulators, Topical Summary	100%	Product discontinuation, brand Condylox, generics are available. No recommended changes to the category.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	viii	Rosacea Agents	100%	No new information. No recommended changes to the category.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	ix	Steroids, Topical (summary)	98%	Summary presentation across 4 potency levels. No new information and no recommended changes to topical steroid category.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		

Prime Therapeutics presented the following categories for therapeutic class reviews with discussion from the pharmacy and therapeutics committee (continued).

Therapeutic Class & Drug Reviews			PDL Compliance	Information/ Recommendation	Discussion	Vote: Yes	Vote: No	Abstain
d. Immunologic								
	i	Cytokine & CAM Antagonists	24%	New product Icotyde. Updated information on: Actemra, Cosentyx, Omvoh, Otezla/XR, Rinvoq, Simponi, Sotyktu, Stelara, Tremfya, Uplizna and Xeljanz/XR. Recommend the following be preferred: Taltz, Starjemza, Tyenne, adalimumab-adaz and Hadlima. Recommend Enbrel and Humira be non-preferred.	What has happened in other states when the biosimilar product is added? Currently only 5 patients on Humira. Recommend Medical Director, Pharmacy Director, reach out to prescribers of Humira, to ask if the moving their patients to the biosimilar would be acceptable. Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	ii	Methotrexate	100%	Product discontinuation Otrexup. No recommended changes to the category.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
e. Respiratory								
	i	Anti-allergen, Oral	NA	Continue to recommendation that no products be preferred.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	ii	Anti-biotics, Inhaled	NA	No new information. No recommended changes to the category.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	iii	Antihistamines, Minimally Sedating	99%	Label updates for cetirizine. No recommended changes.	Has any state had concerns about misuse of non-sedating antihistamines? If information is available, could it be brought to the committee? Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	iv	Bronchodilators, Beta-Agonists	91%	No new information. Recommendations add albuterol HFA AG and ProAir as preferred.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	v	COPD Agents	81%	New generic for Atrovent HFA. No recommended changes to the category.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	vi	Epinephrine, Self-Administered	26%	Neffy has updated indication for a lower age limit. Recommend add AUVI-Q as preferred.	Has any state added Neffy? Unaware of any state that has added. Refer to DUR, is deemed appropriate. Concern that the patient would end our on both products. Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	vii	Glucocorticoids, Inhaled	60%	New indication for Breztri. Generic for Flovent. Recommendation to non-prefer Alvesco.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	viii	Glucocorticoids, Oral	99%	New formulation of HC, Khindivi. No recommended changes to the category.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	ix	Immunomodulators, Asthma	40%	New product Exdensur and new indication for Tezspire. Recommend add Tezspire pen and syringe as preferred.	Committee received letter that was unsigned. Question if AI was perhaps generated. Letters must be signed. Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	x	Intranasal Rhinitis Agents	100%	Product discontinuation Dymista. Product will remain as preferred until supply runs out. No recommended changes to the category.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		
	xi	Leukotriene Modifiers	100%	Discontinuation of chewable Singular brand. Generic remains available. No recommended changes to the category.	Recommendations accepted as presented.	all		

2026 FFS Medicaid P & T Meeting Dates

September 15th
December 1st

Meeting Adjourned

9:38 am