

**September 18, 2003**

**Minutes of the September 18, 2003  
Drug Utilization Review {DUR} Board Meeting**

**Members Attending:** Tim Alford, M.D., Bob Broadus, RPh, Clarence DuBose, RPh, Dianna McGowan, RPh, John Mitchell, M.D., Andrea Phillips, M.D., Cynthia Undesser, M.D.

**Members Absent:** Montez Carter, RPh, Joe McGuffee, RPh, Lee Ann Ramsey, RPh Sara Weisenberger, M.D.

**Also Present:** Derek Martin, RPh, Sam Warman, RPh, Lew Ann Snow, RN, Kathleen Burns, RN. –HID Bo Bowen, Judy Clark, RPh, Phyllis Williams –DOM

Dr. Alford called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

**Approval of minutes of last meeting (June 19, 2003):** Bob Broadus made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Cynthia Undesser seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the approval.

**Reports:**

**Update on Therapeutic Duplications of Atypical Antipsychotics**

Derek Martin presented an update regarding the therapeutic duplication of atypical antipsychotics. The data presented in the report, from 3/1/03 through 5/31/03, gave a summary of the number of duplicate scripts written by each physician specialty type. The report found that Family Practice Physicians had the largest number of duplications. Dr. Cynthia Undesser explained that duplications could possibly occur during the transition from present medications to a new medication; therefore there would be duplication during this transition for possibly up to 60 days. There was general discussion regarding the problem of continued treatment for these patients upon discharge from a psychiatric facility when there is not a referral source in the rural areas for psychiatric care. No recommendations were made.

**Default Providers:**

Derek Martin presented an update on the intervention letters sent to pharmacies utilizing the default provider number greater than 40% of their total prescriptions. Derek stated that he had received numerous calls from pharmacists after receiving this letter. The majority of the calls were very positive in nature and the pharmacists were requesting information regarding obtaining an updated list of Medicaid prescribing physicians in an effort to correct the problem. Clarence Dubose stated that he believes utilization of the default provider number will continue to decrease upon receipt of this letter and he recommended that HID follow up on this intervention. Judith Clark recommended that we make this an ongoing process by HID. Mrs. Clark also stated that with the Envision System it would be possible to cross reference physician DEA numbers with their Medicaid provider numbers. No motion was made.

**Pharmacy Program Update:**

Judith Clark, Pharmacy Bureau Director of the Division of Medicaid gave an update on the Pharmacy program. She reminded the Board that current PA criteria are routed to the P&T committee for approvals and that there are new indications for several medications that will be awaiting approval. Mrs. Clark stated that the Division of Medicaid would prefer to review medications by therapeutic class categories instead of by specific drugs. The P & T committee is working with the University Of Mississippi School Of Pharmacy in order to make recommendations for the preferred drug list. The Envision system will go live in October and it will allow DOM policy to be implemented more accurately and efficiently. Max Units will be monitored closer and changed in the new system to 1 1/2 times' the maximum daily dose recommended by First Data Bank.

**New Business:****Prior Authorization Denials:**

Lew Anne Snow reviewed the reasons most prior authorization requests were denied for each class. The most common reason for denial was due to the lack of a Physicians' signatures on the prior authorization request form. .was pointed out to be the main reason for denial. No recommendations were made.

**Narcotic Prescribing Recommendations:**

Derek Martin presented several recommendations to the Board regarding the parameters used to identify narcotic prescribing patterns. Derek asked the board to make recommendations to HID regarding the data used to identify these patterns. Judith Clark gave a brief summary of the pharmacy expenditures for all narcotics. Mrs. Clark stated that Hydrocodone was found to be the #1 drug in number of Rx's dispensed with Tylenol/codeine being #3. Ultram was noted as #36. Derek Martin stated that it would be possible for HID to look at these as a group or individually.

Recommendation: Bob Broadus recommended that HID look at all above mentioned medication separately. Cynthia Undesser seconded the motion. Motion approved.

**Statins:**

Derek Martin presented data regarding Statin utilization. There was general discussion regarding the underutilization of Statins. Dr. Tim Alford stated that Medicaid does not reimburse for the lab work necessary to monitor the patient medically while taking a Statin. Dr. Andrea Phillip stated that Mississippi leads the nation in diabetes and hypertension, and asked that physician's get the medical support from Medicaid to pay for these lab values needed for statin drug utilization in these high risk patients. Dr. Alford included that Medicare pays for these labs every 6 months. Judith Clark commented that she will mention this concern to the medical standards committee of the Division of Medicaid.

Recommendations: Andrea Phillips asked HID for more information regarding diabetic patients currently taking a Statin and hospitalization data for these patients. No Motion was made at this time

**Black Box Warnings:**

Derek Martin presented to the Board one Black Box warning Salmeterol.

**Suggested Interventions:**

Derek Martin presented intervention recommendations. Each suggested intervention included the number of recipients identified during profile review as being at risk for the specific intervention. These suggested interventions included:

- Black Box Warning concerning ACE Inhibitor Use during Pregnancy
- Therapeutic Duplication of Muscle Relaxants as well as Overutilization of Soma
- Overutilization of Sedative Agents Ambien and Sonata  
Therapeutic Duplication of Atypical Antipsychotics –
- The Overutilization of Narcotic Agents
- The Overutilization of Anxiolytic agents
- Therapeutic Duplication of Anxiolytic Agents
- Overutilization of Inhaled Beta-Agonists
- Overutilization of Stimulants
- Underutilization of Lipid Lowering Agents

Recommendation: Dr Mitchell made a motion to approve the suggested interventions. Andrea Phillips seconded the motion. All voted in favor of motion.

**Next Meeting Information:**

Dr Alford reminded the board of the next meeting on November 20, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.

There being no other business, Dr. Alford asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Bob Broadus made a motion to adjourn. John Mitchell seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approval. The meeting was then adjourned at 3:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted:  
Health Information Designs