

**MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF MEDICAID  
DRUG UTILIZATION REVIEW (DUR) BOARD  
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 MEETING**

<b>DUR Board Roster: State Fiscal Year 2020* (July 1, 2019- December 31,2020)</b>	<b>Dec 2019</b>	<b>Mar 2020</b>	<b>Jun 2020</b>	<b>Sep 2020</b>
Lauren Bloodworth, PharmD	✓	✓	✓	✓
Beverly Bryant, MD	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rhonda Dunaway, RPh	✓		✓	✓
Tanya Fitts, MD	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ray Montalvo, MD (Chair)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Holly Moore, PharmD	✓	✓	✓	✓
Janet Ricks, DO		✓	✓	✓
Dennis Smith, RPh	✓	✓	✓	
Cheryl Sudduth, RPh	✓		✓	✓
James Taylor, PharmD		✓	✓	✓
Alan Torrey, MD		✓	✓	
<b>TOTAL PRESENT**</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>

\* DUR Board Member Terms extended through December 31, 2020

\*\* Total Present may not be reflected by individual members marked as present above due to members who either resigned or whose terms expired being removed from the list.

**Also Present:**

**Division of Medicaid (DOM) Staff:**

Terri Kirby, RPh, CPM, Pharmacy Director; Gail McCorkle, RPh, Clinical Pharmacist; Chris Yount, MA, PMP, Staff Officer – Pharmacy;

**University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy - MS-DUR Staff:**

Eric Pittman, PharmD, MS-DUR Project Director; Kaustuv Bhattacharya, PhD, Research Assistant Professor - CPMM;

**Conduent Staff:**

Lew Anne Snow, RN, BSN, Pharmacy Services Sr. Analyst, Mississippi Medicaid Project; Leslie Leon, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacist, Mississippi Medicaid Project;

**Change Healthcare Staff:**

Paige Clayton, PharmD, On-Site Clinical Pharmacist; Sarah Boydston, PharmD, PA Pharmacist; Cheryl Rogers, PharmD, PA Pharmacist;

**Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) Staff:**

Heather Odem, PharmD, Director of Pharmacy - Mississippi, UnitedHealthcare Community & State; Jenni Grantham, PharmD, Director of Pharmacy, Magnolia Health; Mike Todaro, PharmD, Vice President Pharmacy Operations, Magnolia Health; Trina Stewart, PharmD, Pharmacy

Manager, Molina Healthcare; Joseph Vazhappilly, PharmD, MBA, Associate Vice President, Pharmacy Services, Molina Healthcare;

**Visitors:**

Robert Firnberg, Gilead; Phil Hecht, Abbvie; Evelyn Johnson, Capital Resources; Chris Lauhoff, Genentech; Bryan Leibowitz, Takeda; Nole Mangine, Allergan/Abbvie; David McCullough, Novartis; Jim Musick, GSK; Mike Peoples, Lilly; Michele Shirley, Indivior; Tracey Smalley, Amgen; Jason Swartz, Otsuka; Bruce Wallace, Azurity; Wendy Williams, Supernus; Mycah Wilson, Genentech; Gene Wingo, Biogen; Brent Young, Global Blood Therapeutics; Bradley Hastings, Pharmacy Student; Abigail Pearman, Pharmacy Student.

**Call to Order:**

Dr. Pittman called the meeting to order at 1:01pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting via Zoom.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Dr. Bloodworth moved to approve the minutes from the June 2020 DUR Board Meeting, seconded by Dr. Montalvo, and unanimously approved by the DUR Board.

**Resource Utilization Review:**

Dr. Pittman presented the resource utilization report for April 2020 – June 2020. Beginning in April 2020, enrollment numbers began to increase while the number of prescription fill and total dollars paid saw a marked decrease. These changes correlate with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this same period, an increase in narcotic analgesic utilization as compared to changes in utilization of other drug classes was noted. Change in prescription drug utilization during COVID-19 is an area for potential future research for MS-DUR.

**Feedback and Discussion from Board:**

No follow-up discussion concerning previous DUR Board topics was held.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Election of Co-chair:**

With Dr. Lauren Bloodworth transitioning into the role of Chair, the Board had a vacancy at Co-Chair.

*Following a brief discussion, Dr. Montalvo nominated Dr. James Taylor to serve as Co-Chair for the state fiscal year (SFY) 2021 term. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bryant and unanimously approved by the Board.*

### **Update on MS-DUR Educational Interventions:**

Dr. Pittman provided an overview of all DUR mailings that occurred June 2020 – August 2020.

### **Special Analysis Projects:**

#### ***Opioid Prescribing Trends in Mississippi Medicaid***

Dr. Pittman presented an overview report of the trends associated with opioid prescribing for the period beginning January 2018 through June 2020. During this period, Medicaid implemented four Opioid Initiatives in August 2019. MS-DUR examined trends in opioid prescribing to assess the potential impact of the initiatives. The data demonstrated that significant improvement occurred in opioid prescribing trends. Following discussion, the following recommendations were proposed.

1. DOM should continue monitoring trends in opioid prescribing related to the Opioid Initiatives and explore other metrics for measuring appropriate opioid prescribing.
2. MS-DUR, at the direction of DOM, should explore the impacts of COVID-19 on the prescribing of opioids.
3. DOM should develop a summary of the Opioid Trends Report to be included in an upcoming Provider Bulletin.

*Dr. Montalvo motioned to approve the recommendations, seconded by Ms. Dunaway, and unanimously approved by the Board.*

#### ***Sedative Hypnotics***

Dr. Pittman presented a review of sedative hypnotic use among Medicaid beneficiaries. Increased interest has recently been given to this group of medications with the approval of new agents in this class and with the release of proposed rule changes to the minimum standards for Medicaid State Drug Utilization Review by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to include additional DUR reviews for opioids and sedatives. Results of overall sedative hypnotic use were presented, along with analysis specifically focused on the

concomitant use of opioids and sedative hypnotics. The following recommendations were considered:

1. DOM should implement provider education around the concomitant use of sedative hypnotics and opioids.
  - MS-DUR distribute a one-time letter to all providers that prescribed concomitant sedative hypnotics and opioids to beneficiaries during the previous six months alerting them to the increased risks associated with concomitant use and CMS monitoring recommendations.
  - Develop an educational piece to be included in the next DOM Provider Bulletin.
2. DOM should implement DUR review(s) around the concomitant use of sedative hypnotics and opioids.
  - Pro-DUR edit – create a pro-DUR edit alerting pharmacists to the risks associated with concomitant use but allowing the pharmacist to bypass.
  - Retro-DUR notice – MS-DUR send letters monthly to providers that prescribed concomitant sedative hypnotic/opioid therapy alerting them of the potential dangers.
3. MS-DUR to further evaluate trends and risk factors (racial disparities, comorbidities, prescriber types) associated with long-term use of sedative hypnotics and their concomitant use with opioids.

*Following a robust discussion, Dr. Bloodworth motioned to approve both components of recommendation #1, table recommendation #2 until further questions could be answered and feasibility determined, and approve recommendation #3. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bryant, and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**FDA Drug Safety Updates:**

Dr. Pittman presented FDA drug safety communications for July 2020 – September 2020.

**Pharmacy Program Update:**

Ms. Kirby provided the Board with the following Pharmacy Program Update.

1. Dr. Beverly Bryant is resigning from the Board due to relocation. Ms. Kirby, along with the entire Board, expressed gratitude for Dr. Bryant's service.
2. Dennis Smith has been hired as the new DUR Coordinator in the Office of Pharmacy.
3. Vaccine State Plan Amendment (SPA) – The SPA has been submitted to the Governor's Office for his signature. From there it will be forwarded to CMS for approval. The intent of the SPA is to open up all CDC recommended vaccines to be administered by pharmacists. This will be broken into 2 age groups. For children ages 10- 18 years, pharmacists will be required to be enrolled in the Vaccines For Children Program with the Mississippi State Department of Health. Under this program vaccines are provided at no cost and pharmacists would be reimbursed a \$10 administration fee. The second group is for adults 19 years and older. The SPA will open up all CDC recommended

vaccines to pharmacists for administration. Pharmacists will be reimbursed an ingredient cost equal to wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) and an administration fee that is equal to the Medicare rate currently paid. Medicaid is seeking a September 1, 2020 activation date. If CMS approves the September 1, 2020 date and this occurs after September 1, 2020, reimbursement could be retro-dated to September 1, 2020.

**Miscellaneous:**

***2020 Meeting Dates/Times***

December 3, 2020

*\*Meeting time will remain at 1 pm.*

**Next Meeting Information:**

Dr. Pittman announced that the next meeting of the DUR Board will take place on December 3, 2020 at 1pm.

*Dr. Bloodworth motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:49 pm, seconded by Dr. Fitts, and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Submitted,

Eric Pittman, PharmD

Evidence-Based DUR Initiative, MS-DUR

**Meeting Location:** Woolfolk Building, 501 North West Street, Virtual Meeting, Jackson, MS 39201

**Contact Information:** Office of Pharmacy:

Chris Yount, 601-359-5253; [Christopher.yount@medicaid.ms.gov](mailto:Christopher.yount@medicaid.ms.gov), or  
Jessica Tyson, 601-359-5253; [Jessica.Tyson@medicaid.ms.gov](mailto:Jessica.Tyson@medicaid.ms.gov)

Notice details:

**State Agency:** MS Division of Medicaid

**Public Body:** Drug Utilization Board (DUR) Meeting

**Subject:** Quarterly Meeting

**Date and Time:** March 19, 2020; June 11, 2020; September 17, 2020; and December 3, 2020 at 1PM

**Description:** The Mississippi Division of Medicaid's Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board is a quality assurance body which seeks to assure appropriate drug therapy to include optimal beneficiary outcomes and appropriate education for physicians, pharmacists, and the beneficiary. The Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board is composed of twelve participating physicians and pharmacists who are active MS Medicaid providers and in good standing with their representative organizations.

The Board reviews utilization of drug therapy and evaluates the long-term success of the treatments.

The Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board meets quarterly.



Mississippi Public Meeting Notices

## NOTICE DETAILS

### NOTICE DETAILS

State Agency: Division of Medicaid

Public Body: Division of Medicaid

Title: Drug Utilization Review Board Meeting

Subject: Drug Utilization Review Board

Date and Time: 9/17/2020 1:00:00 PM

Description:

The Mississippi Division of Medicaid Drug Utilization Review Board is a quality assurance body which seeks to assure appropriate drug therapy.

[Back](#)

### MEETING LOCATION

501 North West Street  
Jackson MS 39201

[Map this!](#)

### CONTACT INFORMATION

DOM Pharmacy Bureau  
6013595253  
dompharmacybureau@medicaid.ms.gov

### DOWNLOAD ATTACHMENTS

DFA Meeting notification 2020.docx  
Added: 1/8/2020

### SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS

Subscription options will send you alerts regarding future notices posted by this public body.

[RSS](#)