MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF MEDICAID
DRUG UTILIZATION REVIEW (DUR) BOARD
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 13, 2024 MEETING

DUR Board Roster: State Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)	**Sep 2023**	**Dec 2023**	**Mar 2024**	**Jun 2024**
Joseph Austin, MD	✓	✓		✓
Amy Catherine Baggett, PharmD	✓	✓	✓	
Terrence Brown, PharmD	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chrysanthia Davis, PharmD	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tanya Fitts, MD	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dena Jackson, MD	✓	✓	✓	
Jessica Lavender, MD	NA	NA	✓	✓
Holly Moore, PharmD			✓	
Kristi Phelps, RPh			✓	
Joshua Pierce, PharmD	✓			✓
Joshua Trull, DO	NA	NA	✓	✓
Bobbie West, MD		✓	✓	✓
TOTAL PRESENT**	**8**	**8**	**10**	**8**

** *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; Dennis Smith, RPH, DUR Coordinator; John Aslani, MD, Data Scientist;

University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy - MS-DUR Staff:
Eric Pittman, PharmD, MS-DUR Project Director; Kaustuv Bhattacharya, PhD, MS-DUR Research Assistant Professor;

Medimpact Staff:
Chris Benton, PharmD, Clinical Account Manager;

Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) Staff:
Jenni Grantham, PharmD, Director of Pharmacy, Magnolia Health; Heather Odem, PharmD, Director of Pharmacy - Mississippi, UnitedHealthcare Community & State; Trina Stewart, PharmD, Pharmacy Manager, Molina Healthcare;

Gainwell Staff:
Tricia Banks, PharmD, MS Pharmacy Services Manager; Lew Ann Snow, RN, Advisor Business Analyst;

Telligen Staff:
Buddy Ogletree, PharmD, Pharmacist;

Visitors:
Ashley Zichelli, Johnson and Johnson; Cathy Prine-Eagle, Merck; Roberto Pedraza, Vertex; Hernan Castellon, Alkermes; Paula Whatley, Novo.

Call to Order/Welcome:
The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm.

OLD BUSINESS:
Dr. Brown moved to approve the minutes from the March 2024 DUR Board Meeting, seconded by Dr. Austin, and unanimously approved by the DUR Board.

Resource Utilization Review:
Dr. Pittman presented the resource utilization report for March 2024. Data presented was across all plans. Dr. Pittman noted that this was the first time since transitioning to Gainwell that MS-DUR has been able to present encounter claims data for all plans.

NEW BUSINESS:

Update on MS-DUR Educational Interventions:
Dr. Pittman provided an overview of all DUR mailings and educational notices that occurred between March 2024 through May 2024.

Asthma Management:
Dr. Pittman presented a report on the use of short acting beta agonists (SABAs) in the management of asthma. The 2024 Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) report provides recommendations for the management of asthma across various age groups. In recent years, asthma treatment guidelines have been updated to reflect a move away from the use of SABA as monotherapy in asthma patients due to increased risks of adverse events. The use of 3 or more SABA inhalers per year is associated with a higher risk of severe exacerbations while the use of 12 or more SABA inhalers per year is associated with a higher risk of asthma-related death. Conversely, the use of inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) has been shown to significantly reduce the risks of adverse events such as emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and death. Results from this study indicate a large portion of individuals (56.9%) 6 years of age and older are receiving SABA monotherapy for the treatment of asthma. A total of 31.8% of all SABA users with an asthma diagnosis, regardless of ICS use, had 3 or more SABA inhaler claims during a six-month period indicating poor asthma control. With evidence supporting the use of ICS-containing products for both maintenance and reliever therapy and shifting guideline recommendations away from the regular use of SABAs in the management of asthma, steps should be taken to change asthma treatment among Medicaid beneficiaries. Additionally, multiple SABA fills among beneficiaries without an asthma or COPD diagnosis is a potential concern.

Dr. Pittman presented a variety of potential recommendations to the Board for consideration based on steps other state Medicaid programs have taken to decrease the overuse of SABA inhalers in the treatment of asthma and encourage SMART therapy with an ICS-formoterol agent.

Following a robust discussion, the Board made the following recommendations:

1) MS-DUR will begin a 12-month educational initiative targeting providers treating beneficiaries who received 3 or more SABA inhalers in the previous 6 months. This education would point to the GINA recommendations and encourage the use of ICS-formoterol products as both rescue and controller therapy.
2) DOM will begin working with provider organizations to educate prescribers and pharmacists on the recommendations for decreasing the overuse of SABA inhalers and increasing the use of ICS-formoterol products.
3) After 12-months, DOM will implement a quantity limit of 6 SABA inhalers per 180 days.
4) DOM should cover spacers for inhalers at the pharmacy point-of-sale with a quantity limit of 1 spacer per 180 days.

Dr. Pierce made a motion to approve the above recommendations, seconded by Dr. Brown, and unanimously approved by the Board.

Long-term Use of DOACs:

Dr. Pittman presented a DUR project examining the long-term or extended phase therapy (> 3 months) for venous thromboembolism with direct-acting oral anticoagulants. The 2021 CHEST guidelines recommend weighing the benefits of extended phase anticoagulation therapy after the initial treatment phase for VTE with the increased risks of bleeding. Numerous factors including the underlying cause of the VTE, factors that impact a patient's risks for bleeding, health issues impacting the pharmacokinetics of DOACs, and patient adherence to anticoagulation therapy must all be considered when determining the appropriateness of extended phase DOAC therapy. In this study, 53.2% of individuals with a VTE event initiated on DOAC therapy who met the inclusion criteria received extended phase therapy. Of those that received extended phase DOAC therapy, 16.1% received extended DOAC therapy during the entire 12-month follow-up period of the study. Dosing analysis indicates that recommended reduced-dose DOAC therapy was not routinely utilized in those that received extended phase therapy.

The following recommendation was presented to the Board:

1. MS-DUR recommends DOM engage in a targeted prescriber educational outreach for those beneficiaries with a diagnosis of VTE receiving DOAC therapy for greater than one year. This outreach could include a letter to the prescriber identifying the beneficiary impacted and a summary of the CHEST guideline recommendations. A provider response form could also be included in the outreach to allow the prescriber the opportunity to give feedback.

Following discussion, Dr. Lavender made a motion to accept the recommendation, seconded by Dr. Davis, and unanimously approved by the Board.

FDA Drug Safety Updates:
No new FDA drug safety communications were published between March 2024 and May 2024.

Pharmacy Program Update:
Ms. Kirby provided a pharmacy program update highlighting the following items:

- Dr. Catherine Brett, Medicaid's Medical Director, recently received an award for work she presented at the American College of Preventive Medicine Conference based on the recent DUR project focused on severe maternal morbidity.
- DUR Single pharmacy benefit administrator – Beginning July 1, 2024, all pharmacy claims will be processed through Gainwell. DOM is working on communication to be distributed to pharmacy providers. Additionally, all PA forms will be updated with the new information.
- Beginning July 1, diabetic supplies will be covered at the pharmacy point-of-sale.

Next Meeting Information:
Remaining meeting dates for 2024:

- September 12, 2024
- December 5, 2024

Dr. Pierce adjourned the meeting at 2:35 pm.

Submitted,

Eric Pittman, PharmD
Evidence-Based DUR Initiative, MS-DUR

DUR Board Meeting Resources

Members

The DUR Board is composed of twelve participating Medicaid providers who are in good standing with their representative organizations.

- DUR Board Member List

Meetings

Meetings will be held on the following dates at 1:00 pm at the location as noted:

- ~~March 7, 2024~~
- June 13, 2024 – University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy building on UMMC campus – Map
- Sept. 12, 2024
- Dec. 5, 2024

The June 13 meeting may be viewed virtually by clicking on the following link: Click Here for MS Medicaid DUR Live Broadcast on June 13 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

Please note: This link will only be live during the meeting and will not be archived for future viewing.