

**MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF MEDICAID
DRUG UTILIZATION REVIEW (DUR) BOARD
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2024 MEETING**

DUR Board Roster: State Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)	Dec 2023	Mar 2024	Jun 2024	Sep 2024
Joseph Austin, MD	✓		✓	
Amy Catherine Baggett, PharmD	✓	✓		
Terrence Brown, PharmD	✓	✓	✓	
Chrysanthia Davis, PharmD	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dena Jackson, MD	✓	✓		✓
Jessica Lavender, MD	NA	✓	✓	✓
Holly Moore, PharmD		✓		✓
Kristi Phelps, RPh		✓		
Joshua Pierce, PharmD			✓	✓
Gaylen Sanders, MD	NA	NA	NA	✓
Joshua Trull, DO	NA	✓	✓	✓
Bobbie West, MD	✓	✓	✓	
TOTAL PRESENT**	8	10	8	7

*** 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; Amy Ly-Ha, PharmD, Pharmacist II;

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

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

Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) Staff:

Jenni Grantham, PharmD, Director of Pharmacy, Magnolia Health; Trina Stewart, PharmD, Pharmacy Manager, Molina Healthcare;

Gainwell Staff:

Lew Ann Snow, RN, Advisor Business Analyst;

Telligen Staff:

Buddy Ogletree, PharmD, Pharmacist; Bruce Reed, Pharmacy Student;

Visitors: None.

Call to Order/Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dr. Pierce moved to approve the minutes from the June 2024 DUR Board Meeting, seconded by Dr. Lavender, and unanimously approved by the DUR Board.

Resource Utilization Review

Dr. Pittman presented the resource utilization report for June 2024. Data presented was across all pharmacy programs.

Follow-up and Discussion from the Board

Dr. Pittman presented the Board with a draft version of a provider educational letter addressing the treatment of asthma. This was a recommendation made by the Board at the June 2024 meeting. The letter will be sent to providers treating individuals covered by Medicaid with an asthma diagnosis who had a history of 3 or more short-acting beta agonist prescription claims in the previous six months and did not have a claim for a controller medication. The Board verbalized their support for the mailing.

NEW BUSINESS:**Appointment of Officers**

Dr. Lavender made a motion to appoint Dr. Pierce as the new vice-chair. Dr. Jackson seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Update on MS-DUR Educational Interventions

Dr. Pittman provided an overview of all DUR mailings and educational notices that occurred between June 2024 through August 2024.

Influenza Annual Update

Dr. Pittman presented the Board with an overview of the utilization of influenza vaccinations and anti-influenza prescription agents between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 (SFY 2024). Dr. Pittman noted that compared to the two previous years, the number of claims for influenza vaccinations administered to individuals covered by Medicaid was down this past year. This corresponds to national data indicating that fewer influenza vaccinations were administered in retail pharmacies and medical offices in the U.S. during the 2023-2024 season compared to the prior year. Dr. Pittman urged DOM to encourage providers to be diligent in their recommendations for influenza vaccination for this upcoming season.

RSV Annual Update:

Dr. Pittman presented an overview of the utilization of agents for the prevention of RSV among Medicaid covered individuals. With the approval of nirsevimab and two RSV vaccines, the landscape for RSV protection dramatically changed this past year. Supply issues prevented the

optimal uptake of nirsevimab last year, but those issues have been resolved. Analysis indicated that approximately 10% of newborn infants covered by Medicaid received RSV protection by receipt of nirsevimab or maternal RSV vaccination during the 2023/2024 RSV season.

Trikafta Initiation and Healthcare Utilization

Dr. Pittman presented an analysis project describing and comparing healthcare resource utilization and total cost of care associated with the initiation of Trikafta (elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ ivacaftor) among the Mississippi Medicaid population. Trikafta, the first triple-therapy cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) modulator, expanded CFTR therapy options to over 90% of individuals diagnosed with cystic fibrosis. The study findings suggest that while Trikafta leads to increased pharmacy and total costs, it may have a pronounced effect on reducing acute care needs and improving respiratory outcomes regardless of prior CFTR modulator use.

Concomitant Prescribing of Opioids and Psychotropic Agents

The dangers of the concomitant prescribing of opioids and psychotropic medications is well documented. Individuals who take these medications concurrently are at greater risks of experiencing opioid-related adverse events. This study described trends in the concomitant prescribing of opioids and psychotropic medications among the Mississippi Medicaid population over a 5-year period. Follow up analyses will explore the occurrence of adverse events among those concomitantly prescribed opioids and psychotropic agents and will identify factors associated with these adverse events.

FDA Drug Safety Updates:

No new FDA drug safety communications were published between June 2024 and August 2024.

Pharmacy Program Update:

Ms. Kirby provided a pharmacy program update highlighting the following item:

- The use of a single pharmacy benefit administrator (PBA) began July 1, 2024. Since that time, all pharmacy claims have been processed through Gainwell. Ms. Kirby received positive feedback from Board members on their experiences with the single PBA system.

Next Meeting Information:

Remaining meeting dates for 2024:

- December 5, 2024

Dr. Jackson adjourned the meeting at 2:21 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~~
- Sept. 12, 2024 – Walter Sillers Building, 550 High Street, Jackson, MS – [Map](#)
- Dec. 5, 2024

The September 12 meeting may be viewed virtually by clicking on the following link:
[Click Here for MS Medicaid DUR Live Broadcast on September 12 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.