

**MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF MEDICAID
DRUG UTILIZATION REVIEW (DUR) BOARD
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12, 2025 MEETING**

DUR Board Roster: State Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)	Sep 2024	Dec 2024	Mar 2025	Jun 2025
Joseph Austin, MD		✓	✓	✓
Amy Catherine Baggett, PharmD			✓	
Terrence Brown, PharmD			✓	✓
Chrysanthia Davis, PharmD	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dena Jackson, MD	✓		✓	✓
Jessica Lavender, MD	✓		✓	✓
Holly Moore, PharmD	✓	✓	✓	
Joshua Pierce, PharmD	✓		✓	✓
Gaylen Sanders, MD	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joshua Trull, DO	✓	✓	✓	
Bobbie West, MD			✓	
TOTAL PRESENT**	7	5	11	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:

Dennis Smith, RPH, DUR Coordinator; Amy Ly-Ha, PharmD, Pharmacist II;

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

Eric Pittman, PharmD, PhD, MS-DUR Project Director; Kaustuv Bhattacharya, PhD, MS-DUR Research Assistant Professor; Benjamin Banahan, PhD, MS-DUR Consultant; Connor Callahan, Student Pharmacist Intern; Colton Moore, Student Pharmacist APPE; Kenzie Schutt, Student Pharmacist Intern;

Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) Staff:

None

Gainwell Staff:

Lew Ann Snow, RN, Advisor Business Analyst; Tricia Banks, PharmD, Director of Pharmacy;

Teligen Staff:

Buddy Ogletree, PharmD, Pharmacist; Hosam Mohamed, Student Pharmacist;

Visitors: Paula Whatley, Novo Nordisk; Mark Forkner, PTL Therapeutics; Amanda Ellis, Boehringer Ingelheim; Robert Welch, University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy; Stephanie

Mueller, Mississippi Board of Pharmacy; Jennifer Gholson, Mississippi State Department of Health.

Call to Order/Welcome:

The meeting began at 1:10 pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dr. Pierce moved to approve the minutes from the March 2025 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 2025. Data presented was across all pharmacy programs. Dr. Pittman took some time to compare current trends in pharmacy spend between state fiscal years 2024 and 2025. He noted that while current enrollment and the monthly number of prescription claims is lower, total spend is roughly equal to that period indicating Medicaid is spending more per member per month.

NEW BUSINESS:

Update on MS-DUR Educational Interventions

Dr. Pittman provided an overview of all DUR mailings and educational notices that occurred between March 2025 and May 2025.

Mississippi Division of Medicaid Use of Prescription Monitoring Program in DUR Activities

Dr. Banahan provided the Board a detailed explanation of the procedures MS-DUR follows when integrating prescription monitoring program (PMP) data for matched Medicaid members, noting some of the challenges with reporting claims and matching historical claims to Medicaid members. Dr. Banahan included a description of PMP data for target drug classes, which included medical cannabis. Of note, few Medicaid members with full pharmacy benefits were identified as utilizing medical cannabis. Among those that had claims for medical cannabis, most had multiple medical cannabis claims; and a large portion also had claims for other psychotropic medications, with opioids and benzodiazepines being the most common. The board extensively discussed the findings from this report. Dr. Robert Welch, Director of the National Center for Cannabis Research and Education at the University of Mississippi, Dr. Jennifer Gholson, Mississippi Department of Health, and Stephanie Mueller, Mississippi Board of Pharmacy, provided valuable insights into the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Program (MMCP). Many Board members noted the educational needs that providers and pharmacists have regarding medical cannabis. Following an extensive discussion, the following recommendation was presented:

- The Division of Medicaid (DOM) should explore medical cannabis educational opportunities to offer providers and pharmacists.

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

Update on GLP-1 Anti-obesity Medication Utilization Among Medicaid Members

Dr. Pittman presented three reports around GLP-1 receptor agonist (RA) anti-obesity medications (AOMs). The first report described the geographic characteristics of initiators of GLP-1. Using claims data, approximately 29% of Mississippi Medicaid's adult members receiving full pharmacy benefits were found to be eligible to receive GLP-1 RA AOMs under the current prior authorization criteria. Among those eligible members, 2.4% had initiated therapy as of December 2024. The geographic distribution of GLP-1 RA AOM initiators was not consistent with those counties with the most eligible members. While the counties with the highest eligible populations per 1,000 Medicaid members were located primarily along the Mississippi Delta, the counties with the highest number of initiators per 1,000 eligible members were located in pockets in southern, central, and northern regions of the state. It was noted that prescribers working in weight management clinics were the primary initiators of obesity management medications.

At the conclusion of a robust discussion of factors impacting the initiation of GLP-1 RA AOMs among Medicaid members, the following recommendation was presented:

- Medicaid should work to identify potential barriers to initiation that may be impacting members in counties or regions with the highest rates of eligible members for GLP-1 RA AOM therapy and explore opportunities to improve initiation in those areas.

Dr. Brown made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Dr. Jackson, and unanimously approved by the Board.

The second report identified the utilization of obesity-related counseling services in claims data during the six-month period following GLP-1 RA AOM initiation. While obesity-related counseling is recommended by guidelines and required as part of the prior authorization criteria for medications in the treatment of obesity, documentation was identified in claims data for only a small portion of GLP-1 RA AOM initiators. The Board discussed barriers impacting both the provision of counseling-services and documentation in claims data. Dr. Brown inquired about the possibility of reimbursing pharmacists to deliver obesity-related services. The following recommendations were presented:

- DOM should explore expanding the obesity-related counseling services covered.
- DOM should explore avenues to provide more obesity-related counseling services to members, such as through digital services that can be sent directly to members.
- DOM should explore opportunities for pharmacists to receive reimbursement for providing obesity-related counseling services.

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

The third report described two research proposals for examining short- and long-term health outcomes associated with GLP-1 RA AOM use among Medicaid members with obesity or overweight diagnoses. These research plans will be utilized to generate real-world evidence describing the impact of GLP-1 RA AOMs on the Mississippi Medicaid population. MS-DUR sought Board input regarding both research plans.

No formal recommendations were made in reference to this report.

Perinatal Care Among Medicaid Members with Birth Events

Dr. Pittman presented a landscape analysis of members who experienced birth events during calendar year 2023. This analysis described characteristics of Medicaid members with birth events, including the presence of perinatal mental health and substance use disorders (PMHSUDs). The report also examined healthcare utilization throughout the perinatal period. The following recommendations were presented to the Board:

- Future research should explore the heterogeneity in care quality and outcomes among members with PMHSUD.
- Future research should evaluate the quality of postpartum care and care coordination and identify member characteristics associated with low quality of care that may put them at greater risk of adverse maternal health outcomes.

Dr. Jackson made a motion to approve the recommendations, seconded by Dr. Lavender, and unanimously approved by the Board.

FDA Drug Safety Updates:

Dr. Pittman reviewed the FDA drug safety communications published between March 2025 through May 2025.

Pharmacy Program Update:

Dr. Ly-Ha and Mr. Smith presented the Board with the pharmacy program update:

- CMS accepted Mississippi's proposal to participate in the Cell and Gene Therapy (CGT) Access Model.
- DOM is actively working on a project that will incorporate morphine milligram equivalents (MME) in determining monthly quantity limits for opioid prescriptions.
- DOM recently held a series of obesity management training sessions with care managers. DOM is also reaching out to the Mississippi State Department of Health to explore opportunities to work together in the prevention and treatment of obesity among Mississippians.

Next Meeting Information:

Remaining meeting dates for 2025:

- September 18, 2025
- December 11, 2025

Dr. Pierce adjourned the meeting at 3:27 pm.

Submitted,

Eric Pittman, PharmD, PhD
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 p.m. in the Cobb Conference Room at 550 High St, Jackson, MS ([see map](#)).

- March 20, 2025
- June 12, 2025
- September 18, 2025
- December 11, 2025

The June 12 meeting may be viewed virtually by clicking on the following link: [Click Here for MS Medicaid DUR Live Broadcast on June 12, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.](#)

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

