

**MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF MEDICAID
DRUG UTILIZATION REVIEW (DUR) BOARD
MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 11, 2025 MEETING**

DUR Board Roster: State Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)	Mar 2025	Jun 2025	Sep 2025	Dec 2025
Amy Catherine Baggett, PharmD	✓		✓	
Terrence Brown, PharmD	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greg Browning, MD	NA	NA	✓	✓
Rachel Burt, PharmD	NA	NA	✓	✓
Steven Clark, MD	NA	NA	✓	✓
Chrysanthia Davis, PharmD	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dena Jackson, MD	✓	✓		✓
Jessica Lavender, MD	✓	✓	✓	
Holly Moore, PharmD	✓		✓	
Joshua Pierce, PharmD	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gaylen Sanders, MD	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joshua Trull, DO	✓		✓	✓
TOTAL PRESENT**	11	7	11	9

*** 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; John Bentley, PhD, CPMM Director;

Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) Staff:

Jenni Grantham, PharmD, Director of Pharmacy, Magnolia Health; John Mitchell, TrueCare;

Gainwell Staff:

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

Teligen Staff:

Buddy Ogletree, PharmD, Pharmacist;

Visitors: Paula Whatley, Novo Nordisk; David Large, Chiesi GRD; Thomas Dobbs, UMMC;

Call to Order/Welcome:

The meeting began at 1:06 pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dr. Davis moved to approve the minutes from the September 2025 DUR Board Meeting, seconded by Dr. Brown, and unanimously approved by the DUR Board.

Resource Utilization Review

Dr. Pittman presented the resource utilization report for September 2025. Data presented was across all pharmacy programs.

NEW BUSINESS:

Update on MS-DUR Educational Interventions

Dr. Pittman provided an overview of all DUR mailings and educational notices that occurred between September 2025 and November 2025. Dr. Pittman also provided the Board with an update on educational efforts DUR/Medicaid have engaged in regarding the need for increased RSV protection for infants. An educational letter was developed and distributed to multiple provider groups across Mississippi.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Utilization

Prevention of new HIV infections using PrEP is essential in the fight to eliminate HIV in the U.S. When taken as directed, PrEP has been found to be highly effective at preventing HIV; however, multiple barriers have impeded uptake. While PrEP therapy is part of Medicaid's Universal Preferred Drug List (UPDL), uptake has been limited across the state. Guest presenter Dr. Thomas Dobbs gave the Board some insights into the state of HIV prevention and treatment in Mississippi. At the conclusion of a robust discussion, the following recommendation was presented:

1. The DOM should conduct provider education on PrEP therapy to include:
 - Incidence rates for HIV infections in Mississippi.
 - Categories of individuals identified as being high risk for acquiring HIV infection.
 - Preferred status of PrEP products on UPDL.
 - Inclusion of PrEP products as covered medications under the Family Planning Waiver for both males and females.
 - Need for more providers around the state to identify high-risk members and prescribe PrEP.
 - Stigma reduction recommendations.

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

HIV Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Adherence

Adherence to antiretroviral therapy is crucial in attaining viral suppression and optimal outcomes among individuals treated for HIV. ART adherence of $\geq 90\%$ is the recognized threshold for achieving viral suppression. Among Medicaid members included in the analysis, 34.87% of members receiving ART in 2024 achieved a proportion of days-covered (PDC) $\geq 90\%$, down from 42.11% in 2019, while only 7.58% of members on injectable ART therapy with Cabenuva[®] achieved PDC $\geq 90\%$. Opportunities exist to improve adherence to antiretroviral therapy among Medicaid members. Concluding discussion, the following recommendations were presented:

1. DOM should collaborate with Mississippi State Department of Health, infectious disease practice groups, and state medical/pharmacy/nursing associations on strategies to improve ART adherence among Medicaid members.
2. DOM should conduct targeted outreach to providers with members who have low ART adherence.

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

Trends, Treatment Patterns, and Healthcare Utilization Associated with Migraine-related Medications

Migraine treatment has transformed since the introduction of calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) therapy. Since 2018, these breakthrough medications have accounted for over half of Mississippi Medicaid's expenditures on migraine-related therapies. While the use of migraine preventive therapies has been shown to reduce migraine-related ED visits and hospitalizations, many members require the concurrent use of acute medications along with their preventive therapy, including those members taking preventive CGRP therapies. Considering the significant financial impact of CGRP inhibitors, DOM must ensure the appropriate clinical use of these therapies in the treatment of migraine. DOM asked the DUR Board to review its current criteria for CGRP inhibitors and provide input. Following discussion, the Board affirmed Medicaid's current criteria with the exception of recommending DOM consider removing the criteria for consultation with a specialist.

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

Weight Changes Associated with the Initiation of Glucagon-like Peptide-1 Receptor Agonist (GLP-1 RA) Anti-Obesity Medications (AOMs)

Obesity is a chronic, relapsing condition that affects a substantial portion of the population and is linked to more than 60 comorbidities. Even modest weight reduction can lead to meaningful improvements in many of these conditions. Of note, 40% of members in the study cohort had a body mass index (BMI) of 45 or greater at baseline, and over 80% initiated treatment with a BMI exceeding 35. Among Medicaid members who initiated GLP-1 RA AOMs between July 2023

and June 2024 and had follow-up prior authorization data available, 57% of those in the 6-month cohort and 64.4% of those in the 12-month cohort achieved at least 5% weight loss. Patterns of medication use—including adherence, persistence, and lack of medication switching—were strongly and consistently associated with achieving weight loss.

No formal recommendations were made in reference to this report.

FDA Drug Safety Updates:

The FDA issued no new drug safety updates between September and November 2025.

Pharmacy Program Update:

The following items were included in the pharmacy program update:

- The Board was encouraged to subscribe to Medicaid's Late Breaking News Listserv.
- Medicaid reminded pharmacies to submit the correct national drug code (NDC) for items dispensed.
- New PDL changes will go into effect January 1, 2026. A copy of the provider notice detailing all changes was distributed to the Board.

Next Meeting Information:

Potential 2026 DUR meeting dates: March 5 or 19, 2026; June 11, 2026; September 10, 2026; December 10, 2026.

Dr. Pierce adjourned the meeting at 2:38 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 September 18 meeting may be viewed virtually by clicking on the following link:
[Click Here for MS Medicaid DUR Live Broadcast on December 11, 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.