

**MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF MEDICAID
DRUG UTILIZATION REVIEW (DUR) BOARD
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 11, 2026 MEETING
COBB CONFERENCE CENTER, SILLERS BUILDING, JACKSON, MS**

DUR Board Roster: State Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)	Sep 2025	Dec 2025	Mar 2026	Jun 2026
Amy Catherine Baggett, PharmD	✓		✓	
Terrence Brown, PharmD	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greg Browning, MD	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rachel Burt, PharmD	✓	✓	✓	✓
Steven Clark, MD	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chrysanthia Davis, PharmD	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dena Jackson, MD		✓	✓	✓
Jessica Lavender, MD	✓		✓	✓
Holly Moore, PharmD	✓		✓	
Joshua Pierce, PharmD	✓	✓		✓
Gaylen Sanders, MD	✓	✓	✓	
Joshua Trull, DO	✓	✓	✓	
TOTAL PRESENT**	11	9	11	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, Director of Pharmacy; Dennis Smith, RPH, DUR Coordinator; Amy Ly-Ha, PharmD, Pharmacist II; Robert Besinger, MD, Medical Director; Lindy Files, Pharmacy Intern;

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

Eric Pittman, PharmD, PhD, MS-DUR Project Director; Tyler Vest, PharmD, MS, MSSCM, Research Associate Professor; Omkar Ghodke, MS, Research Analyst;

Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) Staff:

Jessica Lawson, PharmD, TrueCare; Thomas Nguyen, PharmD, Magnolia Health;

Gainwell Staff:

Tricia Banks, PharmD, Director of Pharmacy;

Teligen Staff:

Buddy Ogletree, PharmD, Pharmacist;

Visitors: Paula Whatley, Novo Nordisk; Caroline Bobinger, Novo Nordisk; Shawn Headley, Gilead; Scott Tabot, Agios.

Call to Order/Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM by Dr. Pierce, Chair.

Mr. Smith introduced Dr. Besinger, Medicaid's new Medical Director, and Lindy Files, summer pharmacy student intern, to the Board. Dr. Pittman introduced Omkar Ghodke, research analyst with the University of Mississippi, to the Board.

Mr. Smith also introduced additional guests seated at the table. Representatives from several Medicaid pharmacy vendors were added as non-voting guests to facilitate discussion and collaboration with the DUR Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dr. Browning moved to approve the minutes from the March 2026 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 March 2026. Data presented was across all pharmacy programs.

Follow-up from Previous Board Projects

Drafts for three planned provider communications that resulted from recent DUR projects were presented to the Board for review. The communications included:

- A letter describing the monitoring of the appropriate use of antipsychotics among adult Medicaid members enrolled in long-term care.
- The first in a series of targeted provider educational mailings addressing the need for increased prescribing of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) pre-exposure prophylaxis among Medicaid members at risk of HIV infection.
- A packet containing tips for prescribing select anti-obesity agents.

NEW BUSINESS:**Update on MS-DUR Educational Interventions**

Dr. Pittman provided an overview of all DUR mailings and educational notices that occurred between March 2026 and May 2026.

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Treatment Overview

Direct-acting antiviral (DAA) therapy has proven to be highly effective in curing individuals diagnosed with HCV. This report analyzed the use and effectiveness of DAA therapy for hepatitis C among Mississippi Medicaid members. It examined provider types, treatment regimens, therapy completion rates, and the impact of DAA therapy on liver transplant rates. While improved access due to policy changes, high completion rates for DAA therapy, and

significant reductions in liver transplants for those treated were noted, gaps remain in timely treatment initiation and therapy completion.

Following the discussion, Dr. Brown made the following recommendations, seconded by Dr. Lavender, and unanimously approved by the Board.

1. *DOM work with the pharmacy programs on initiatives to:*
 - a. *Remind providers of the importance of screening for HCV and distribute a treatment algorithm for providers to follow.*
 - b. *Improve the proportion of members initiating DAA therapy within one year of an HCV diagnosis.*
 - c. *Increase the therapy completion rate of individuals prescribed DAA regimens.*

Sickle Cell Disease Gene Therapy Modeling

This report identified a measurable subset of Mississippi Medicaid members with sickle cell disease who meet modeled eligibility criteria for newly approved gene therapies, although final eligibility will depend on age restrictions, clinical evaluation, and prior authorization requirements. While only a small proportion of members met all combined criteria for Casgevy® or Lyfgenia®, the findings highlight the need for early planning, care coordination, and access-support services as the Mississippi Division of Medicaid implements the Cell and Gene Therapy Access Model and prepares for the potential budget and operational impact of these high-cost therapies.

This report was presented for informational purposes with no formal recommendations included.

FDA Drug Safety Updates:

The FDA drug safety updates issued between March 2026 and May 2026 were reviewed.

Bylaws Update:

The Board reviewed the bylaws. Dr. Jackson recommended the following updates, seconded by Dr. Burt, and unanimously approved by the Board:

Article II. Membership

Section 1 – Board Composition

- A. *The DUR Board will consist of twelve (12) voting members.*
- B. *The DUR Board voting members will be comprised of at least one-third (1/3), but no more than fifty-one percent (51%), licensed physicians and at least one-third (1/3) licensed pharmacists. Voting members may consist of health care professionals with knowledge/expertise in one or more of the following:*
 - 1) *Prescribing of drugs,*
 - 2) *Dispensing and monitoring of drugs,*
 - 3) *Drug use review, evaluation, and intervention,*
 - 4) *Medical quality assurance.*

Article III. Meetings

Section 6 – Quorum

A majority of current active appointed voting members shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum is not present, the Board may participate in discussion and utilization analysis, but may not conduct business, such as approval of minutes, changes to by-laws, or recommendations requiring a vote. Such business shall be conducted at a subsequent meeting. Meeting minutes shall reflect that a quorum was not present.

Pharmacy Program Update:

The Pharmacy Division provided the following updates to the Board:

- 340b language in the State Plan Amendment is being updated.
- Changes are being made to the specialty pharmacy dispensing fee.
- A train-the-trainer session for TrueCare care managers on GLP-1 anti-obesity medications is upcoming.
- Preferred Drug List changes are taking place around brand and generic Farxiga® (dapagliflozin) products.
- Medicaid is working through processes to ensure compliance with Senate Bill 2140 for the prior authorization provider portal.

Next Meeting Information:

September 10, 2026

Dr. Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:57 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 19, 2026
- June 11, 2026
- September 10, 2026
- December 10, 2026

The March 19 meeting may be viewed virtually by clicking on the following link: [Click Here for MS Medicaid DUR Live Broadcast on March 19, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.](#)

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

DRAFT