

**Minutes of the March 13, 2009
Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Committee Meeting
SD Department of Social Services, Medical Services Division**

Members present

Verdayne Brandenburg, M.D.; Galen Goeden, R.Ph.; William Ladwig, R.Ph.; Dennis Hedge, PharmD.; Rick Holm, M.D.; Debra Farver, PharmD.; Timothy Soundy, M.D.

Members absent

Dana Darger, R.Ph.; James Engelbrecht, M.D.; Willis Sutliff, M.D.

DSS staff present

Mike Jockheck, R.Ph.; Revi Warne, DSS; Larry Iversen, Director, Division of Medical Services.

HID staff present

Candace Rieth, Pharm.D.

Administrative Business

The P&T meeting was called to order by V. Brandenburg at approximately 1:08pm. The minutes of the December 12, 2008 meeting were presented. R. Holm made a motion to approve as written, with a second by B. Ladwig. The motion was approved unanimously.

Prior Authorization Statistics

C. Rieth presented an overview of the prior authorization (PA) activity for January 2009. There were a total of 1,690 PAs processed in the month of January, with 99.76% of those requests responded to in less than 8 hours. There were 1,502 (89%) requests received electronically and 188 (11%) requests received by fax. In response to a request from the committee, C. Rieth presented the number of approvals and denials, by form type, for the faxed (manual) PA requests.

Analysis of the Top 15 Therapeutic Classes

C. Rieth reviewed the Top 15 Therapeutic Classes by total cost of claims from 10/01/2008 – 12/31/2008. The top five classes were antipsychotics, anticonvulsants, cerebral stimulants, amphetamines, and antidepressants. The top 15 therapeutic classes make up 42.28% of total claims.

Duplicate Antipsychotic Therapy Update

At the December P&T meeting, T. Soundy made a motion to recommend that the State investigate duplicate antipsychotic therapy. T. Soundy suggested that this be done through an internal peer review process. D. Hedge mentioned that the DUR Board reviewed patient profiles and sent letters on those patients receiving duplicate antipsychotic therapy. D. Hedge stated that those letters were mailed and that the Board is waiting to receive the surveys back from the practitioners. An update will be given at a future P&T meeting.

T. Soundy made a motion to send letters to the top 100 prescribers of psychotropic medications. The letter should include information regarding average cost per prescription of at least the top 10 medications showing less expensive options. B. Ladwig seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion was approved unanimously. This letter will be drafted and reviewed by the Department and an update will be given at the next P&T meeting.

Future Agenda Item

B. Ladwig made a motion that new drugs coming to market be reviewed at each P&T meeting. G. Goeden seconded the motion. L. Iversen informed the committee that all products must be covered by Medicaid if a rebate agreement is signed between the manufacturer of the product and CMS. The P&T committee may review products for prior authorization as long as public notice and the opportunity for public comment are given. There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

Antidepressant Mailing Update

C. Rieth informed the committee that the final draft of the antidepressant letter to be mailed has been sent to the Department for approval. This letter should be mailed prior to the next committee meeting.

Quantity Limits Update

C. Rieth informed the committee that the quantity limits approved at the last meeting are in the process of being implemented.

Singulair Review

At the December meeting, V. Brandenburg made a motion to place Singulair on prior authorization with an automatic approval on the first prescription received by a recipient. This would allow providers time to submit a diagnosis for their patients. The motion was tabled pending review of data submitted by Merck, manufacturer of Singulair. After review of the data, B. Ladwig made a motion to send an educational letter to prescribers of Singulair informing them of costs as well as the guidelines for use. R. Holm seconded the motion. M. Daniels, representing Merck, spoke against prior authorization of Singulair. The motion passed unanimously. A sample letter will be brought to the next meeting.

Xopenex Review

C. Rieth reviewed the sample letter that will be sent informing prescribers of comparative costs of short acting beta agonists.

Lyrica Review

C. Rieth reviewed Lyrica and Gabapentin utilization. G. Goeden made a motion to place Lyrica on prior authorization. D. Farver seconded the motion. J. Blow, a local practitioner, spoke against prior authorization of Lyrica. C. Hoffman, representing Pfizer, spoke against prior authorization of Lyrica. Roll call was taken; Farver, yes; Hedge, no; Goeden, yes; Ladwig, no; Soundy, no; Holm, no; Brandenburg, no. Motion failed. Lyrica will not require a prior authorization.

Targeted Immunomodulator Review

Because of time restraints, V. Brandenburg made a motion to defer the Targeted Immunomodulator Review until the next meeting. B. Ladwig seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Xolair Review

C. Rieth reviewed Xolair utilization. B. Ladwig made a motion to place Xolair on prior authorization. D. Farver seconded the motion. There was no public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting date is June 12, 2009. The location will be sent to members and interested parties as soon as possible. A motion was made by V. Brandenburg at 3:00pm to adjourn the SD Medicaid P&T. B. Ladwig seconded. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.