Minutes of the December 7, 2007
Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Committee Meeting
SD Department of Social Services, Medical Services Division

Members present
Verdayne Brandenburg, MD; Dana Darger, RPh; William Ladwig, RPh; Dennis Hedge, PharmD; Galen Goeden, RPh; Willis Sutliff, MD; James Engelbrecht, MD; Rick Holm, MD.

DSS staff present
Mike Jockheck, RPh; Jill Wellhouse; Larry Iversen.

HID staff present
Christina Faulkner, PharmD; Candace Rieth, PharmD.

Administrative Business
The P&T meeting was called to order at approximately 12:45 pm. Bill Ladwig, chairman, directed the meeting. Stacey Kutil spoke to the group about the Mark Petersen scholarship that will be established at South Dakota State University (SDSU). Following discussion of the memorial fund, the minutes of the September 21, 2007 meeting were presented. Dr. Brandenburg made a motion to approve as written, with a second by Mr. Goeden. The motion was approved unanimously.

Asthma Project Update
Dr. Brandenburg spoke to the committee about initiating an intense educational project involving South Dakota Medicaid recipients with asthma. After looking at the utilization of different asthma medications (rescue inhalers, controller medications, etc.), the committee discussed implementing a disease management program. The committee discussed how best to do this and it was decided that the project would be educational in nature and would be tested in a target community. The Brookings area was considered. The committee decided that they would need to determine: 1) the core committee; 2) size of the study; 3) the location; 4) and the funding. It was decided that the core committee would consist of Mr. Ladwig, Mr. Goeden, Mr. Darger, Dr. Brandenburg, and Dr. Holm.

Prior Authorization Statistics
Ms. Faulkner presented an overview of the prior authorization (PA) activity for October 2007.

There were a total of 2,225 PA's processed in the month of October, with 99.60% of those requests responded to in less than 8 hours. There were 1,942 (87%) requests

received electronically, 282 (13%) received by fax, and 1 request received by phone. Overall, there was a 16% approval rating for the month of October.

There were 504 dispense as written (DAW) requests. The committee requested more information about the nature of those requests. HID will provide more information about the DAW-1 prior authorization (PA) requests at the next P&T Committee meeting.

Analysis of the Top 25 Drugs/Top 15 Therapeutic Classes

Ms. Faulkner presented an overview of the top 25 drugs by number of claims and by claims cost. The top five drugs based on total number of claims for the 3rd quarter 2007 are as follows: amoxicillin, azithromycin, hydrocodone/acetaminophen, Singulair®,and Zyrtec®. After noting the high utilization of Zyrtec®, the committee asked Mr. Jockheck if generic cetirizine and OTC cetirizine would require a PA. Mr. Jockheck told the committee that it would depend on the federal rebates offered by the manufacturer and he would let them know the status at the next meeting.

The committee members also requested more information on Singulair® utilization. They would like to know what percentage of patients on Singulair® have an asthma, reactive airway disease (RAD), or allergic rhinitis. Ms. Faulkner told the committee she will research that and present it at the next meeting.

The top five drugs based on total claims cost are as follows: Abilify®, Concerta®, Seroquel®, Singulair®, and Adderall XR®.

Ms. Faulkner briefly reviewed the top 15 therapeutic classes of drugs based on cost for 3rd quarter 2007. The top five classes are as follows: Antipsychotic agents, Anticonvulsants, Anorex/Respir/Cerebral Stimulants, Antidepressants, and Beta-Adrenergic Agonists. The committee had requested a breakdown of the agents in the antipsychotic class at the September P&T meeting. Ms. Faulkner reviewed the top antipsychotics (based on cost) and detailed the number of prescriptions dispensed and the cost per prescription for each antipsychotic agent.

The committee requested a breakdown of agents included in the fourth generation cephalosporin class for the next meeting.

Old Business

Ms. Faulkner presented a general prior authorization form to the committee. Dr. Brandenburg asked that the "qualifications for coverage" section include a caveat stating that the provider should include any additional relevant information. The committee agreed that after this change is made, the form can be posted for use.

During the September 2007 P&T Committee meeting, it was noted that one of the top prescribers of ondansetron was a psychiatrist. The P&T committee requested additional information about the off-label uses of ondansetron. Ms. Faulkner presented the clinical outcomes data for unlabeled uses of this drug. Ondansetron is being tested for use in patients with Tourette's, balance issues, tardive dyskinesia, obsessive-compulsive

disorder, addiction, bulimia, and treatment-resistant schizophrenia. Mr. Darger made a motion that this issue be turned over to the Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board, so they can determine if the off-label use of ondansetron is an issue that needs to be addressed.

Utilization of Non-Benzodiazepine Sedative/Hypnotic Agents

John St. Peter from Takeda spoke briefly to the committee members about the ramelteon (Rozerem®). Tim Butler and Dr. Hari Kannan from Sepracor spoke about eszopiclone (Lunesta®).

Ms. Faulkner reviewed the utilization trends of non-benzodiazepine sedative/hypnotic agents by cost and by number of prescriptions dispensed prior to and after the implementation of the Ambien CR® edit. The committee briefly discussed whether or not prescribers would change to zolpidem when informed that Ambien CR® required a prior authorization. Some committee members felt that it was likely that prescribers would switch to other branded sedative/hypnotic agents, while others felt that most providers would be willing to prescribe a trial of zolpidem. The committee decided that more data was needed to determine how the edit was affecting prescribing habits in the state. The committee asked that Ms. Faulkner review the data for the next meeting. The topic was tabled, pending additional information.

Review of Top Prescribers of Quinolone Ophthalmic Agents

Ms. Faulkner gave an overview of the top prescribers of quinolone ophthalmic agents. She further broke down the prescribers by their use of moxifloxacin and gatifloxacin and by their location and specialty. The committee discussed appropriate utilization of these agents and Dr. Sutliff made a motion that the committee ask Dr. Keegan to write an article for the medical journal regarding this issue. The committee would like the bacterial conjunctivitis article that was sent out to the South Dakota Medicaid providers also be sent to each P&T member. Dr. Sutliff made a motion that these issues be addressed and followed up on at the next meeting. Dr. Holm seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Utilization of Pancreatic Drug Products

In light of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) statement issued, indicating that there is not sufficient data to determine therapeutic equivalence of the pancreatic drug products, and that substitution is not recommended for these products, Ms. Faulkner recommended that all pancreatic drug products be added to the list of narrow therapeutic index drugs. Mr. Darger made a motion to add these drugs to the narrow therapeutic index drugs and not ask providers to substitute these medications. Dr. Sutliff seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Review of Xyzal®

Ms. Faulkner briefly reviewed the clinical and cost data for the new antihistamine, Xyzal®. After discussion, Dr. Sutliff made a motion to add Xyzal® to the antihistamines that require a prior authorization. Dr. Hedge seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Review of Growth Hormones

Ms. Faulkner reminded the committee that growth hormones require prior authorization for South Dakota Medicaid. HID recently started reviewing these requests. Ms. Faulkner asked that the committee review the criteria and offer suggestions and comments.

Sandy Carpenter spoke on behalf of Genentech and Nutropin®. Suzanne Allen spoke on behalf of Eli Lilly and Humatrope®. Ms. Faulkner also read a letter sent to the committee from Dr. Karmazin and Dr. Davis-Keppren, both physicians and professors at Sanford Children's Specialty Clinic – Sanford School of Medicine, regarding the need for appropriate utilization of growth hormone agents without affecting patients who need this specialized therapy.

After some discussion, the committee asked that Dr. Sutliff and Ms. Faulkner contact Dr. Davis-Keppren and review the current growth hormone criteria.

Dr. Sutliff made a motion to limit the prescribing of growth hormone to gastroenterologists, nephrologists, and endocrinologists. Also, Dr. Sutliff recommended that Dr. Keppren be contacted to review the current growth hormone guidelines. Dr. Holm seconded the motions and they passed unanimously.

Other Business

The members of the committee thanked Mr. Ladwig for his service and guidance as chair. Mr. Goeden nominated Mr. Darger for the position of chair of the committee and Dr. Brandenburg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Darger nominated Dr. Sutliff for the position of vice-chair and Dr. Engelbrecht seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

After deliberation, the next meeting date was set for Friday, February 29, 2008.

There were no further comments or questions and Mr. Darger made a motion to adjourn, with a second by Dr. Sutliff. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Faulkner, PharmD

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