

WYDUR Board Meeting Minutes
May 26, 2005
Casper, Wyoming

Members Present: Mike Carpenter, Antoinette Brown, Linda Martin, Richard Johnson, George Zaharas, Dean Winsch, Bill Harrison, Bill Keenan, Scott Johnston, Deb Devereaux, Steve Brown

Members Excused: Becky Drnas, Kendra Grande, Roxanne Homar

Guests: Jeff Jenkins-Merck, Larry Bridger-Pfizer, Tim Hynek-Lilly, Michael Ware-Forest, Christi Genke-Forest

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 by Vice-Chair George Zaharas. The minutes of the March 31, 2005 meeting were approved as presented.

Department of Health

The Department plans to acquire the "smart PA" program from ACS and implement this fall. An academic detailing program is also under consideration and it may be feasible to look at employing retired physicians for this role. The Board suggested other educational strategies including a booth at the annual Wyoming Medical Society meeting, ANP and PA meetings or a newsgroup on the web.

A State MAC program began on December 1, 2004. \$561,000 was the cost savings reported in the first three months. Prime Therapeutics has the contract for this program. Generic gabapentin SMAC saved \$34,610 for the first 5 months. The smart PA program would increase those savings. Concern was raised that SMACs be based on actual costs and not a straight percentage.

The mandatory generic prescribing program begins July 1, 2005. For 1st quarter 05 ending March 31, brand usage was 37.93% (75% of expenditures) and generic usage was 51.11%. The state estimates that Wyoming spends \$10.5 million on medications for which there is a generic equivalent (not including the NTI drugs eg. Synthroid, Levoxyl, Depakote etc.).

The Dept of Health review went well. Compared to other states there are not a lot of optional programs and Wyoming is very conservative. In the pharmacy program, cost containment is going well.

Planning for the Medicare Part D benefit continues. There are system issues regarding wrap-around, coverage for benzodiazepines, barbiturates and OTCs.

The PDL meeting will be held Wednesday June 1 at the Hitching Post Inn in Cheyenne. The agenda and minutes are posted on the PDL website. It appears that providers are trying methadone and then switching patients back to other long acting opioids. The Board reiterated its support for having more choices of dosage forms for providers if possible. The erectile dysfunction class of drugs will be added to prior authorization due to the use by registered sex offenders as reported in the NY Medicaid program. The Board discussed the use in pulmonary hypotension and the need to screen for nitrate use as potential criteria. Draft criteria will be discussed at the July DUR Board meeting.

The Board discussed growth hormone utilization and recommended leaving the criteria as is since there doesn't seem to be a utilization issue.

Duragesic 12 mcg has been added to the PA list for long acting opioids. The Board discussed quantity limits on Lunesta and decided to defer until Kendra can look at the results of clinical trials.

The Board discussed Soma tapering guidelines. Washington has a 3 month grace period and then a letter is sent to the provider indicating its non-preferred status. The Board decided on a 4 month grace period after which time providers and patients are notified. Further prescriptions are denied and the patient needs to go through the appeal process if not already switched.

A review of Zofran use from June 03-June 04 showed that 19/780 patients were utilizing it for morning sickness or hyperemesis gravidarum. Draft criteria will be circulated to oncologists, fp, OB-Gyn.

Other

A review of Gabitril showed it being used for sleep primarily for which there is little or no supporting evidence (72 pt). A fall newsletter article will cover its risk of seizures. A letter will also be sent to providers about the risk of seizures. The fall newsletter will also cover the risk of death in elderly patients on atypical antipsychotics (see FDA Public Health Advisory-Deaths with Antipsychotics in Elderly Patients). A letter will also be sent on topamax and ocular risks.

The Board decided to suppress the alert with Claritin and renal and liver problems.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. The next meeting will be Thursday, July 28 in Laramie.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Devereaux MBA, FASHP
DUR Manager