

MINUTES
March 31, 2003 Meeting
DRUG UTILIZATION REVIEW (DUR) BOARD

Members present: Brendan Joyce, Mark Biel, Norman Byers, Karen Tescher, Greg Pfister

Members absent: Pat Churchill, Bob Treitline, Robert Wells, Jason Moe, UND Family Practice Resident

New Member: John Savageau

The meeting was opened at 8:00 AM. Previous meeting minutes were accepted as submitted.

Old Business

1. Budget Update – The DUR Board was presented with the most recent spend-down tables showing the current status of the pharmacy budget for ND Medicaid.
2. Prior Authorization – The DUR Board was asked to identify potential drugs and drug classes for future prior authorization. This would potentially serve as a starting point if HB 1430 would be passed and signed by the governor. Products / classes that were identified included
 - Proton pump inhibitors
 - Maximized tablet splitting
 - COX-II inhibitors
 - Pain management
 - Less sedating antihistamines
 - Dispense as Written prescriptions
 - Compound Drugs
 - Patent ‘evergreening’ products
3. Legislative Update – The DUR Board was given a copy of the most recent version of HB 1430. The new structure of the DUR Board was reviewed, as were all aspects of the pending bill. Additional discussion was held regarding the section that calls for maximized edits and MAC lists. An update on the status of HB 1399 and the Governor’s proposed Health Senior Rx plan was given, as well as answering questions somewhat related to SB 2025 (the deficiency appropriation).
4. Top 400 patient management – Discussion was held regarding the top 400 patients. The department would like to develop a method to address the health and service utilization for these patients. Agreement was easily reached that a relationship between the physician, pharmacist, and existing case manager with

the human service centers is mandatory, but the process by which this would occur was not developed. Ideas mentioned included utilizing the cough and cold packs as Altru and BCBS have done, paying pharmacists a flat fee for patient management and following results for cost benefit, and having case managers refer a number of patients to pharmacists for review and reporting back to the case manager.

New Business

1. Quantity Limits – The DUR Board was asked again to state their opinion regarding quantity limits. They reiterated their stance from past meetings: quantity limits that follow dosing outlined in the official compendia are appropriate and necessary. As the list expands, all members will receive a copy as will the medical association.
2. New Erectile Dysfunction Drugs – The DUR Board stated that the current limitation for Viagra of 6 tablets per month is best stated as a class limit of 6 pills per 30 days for the entire drug class.
3. Other
 - The DUR Board stated that physicians that prescribe an inordinate amount of Nexium® should be contacted on behalf of the DUR Board to have them explain their reasons behind such prescribing habits.
 - Discussion was held regarding the high cost of new medications that have recently been released or will be released in the coming years. Biological drugs are coming out fast and furious and are usually priced at a premium when compared to standard medications. The impact on our budget in the future will be significant and appropriate use is mandatory.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 19 at 8:00 AM in the ?