

MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2003 MEETING  
DRUG UTILIZATION REVIEW (DUR) BOARD

Members present: Brendan Joyce, Mary Koenecke, Norm Byers, Bob Treitline, Al Samuelson, Greg Pfister, Rob Thompson, Mark Biel, Leann Ness, John Windsor, John Savageau, Ronald Burd, Gary Betting

Members absent: Pat Churchill, Kamille Bachmeier

The meeting was opened at 1:00 PM by chairman Byers.

Business associate agreements and confidentiality agreements were handed out to the members. Some background information was given and questions answered by Melissa Hauer from the Department of Human Services legal unit. Some members will check with their employing institution prior to signing the agreements, and Ms. Hauer felt that was appropriate. Board members were instructed to turn them in once they are signed.

The budget update was requested and Brendan Joyce informed the board that due to changes in the federal match rate, the report was not yet available.

The antihistamine policy / form for prior authorization was projected on the wall and discussion was opened. Brendan Joyce explained that since the NDC number will be provided by the pharmacy and the form is to remain user friendly at one page, not all different combination products of antihistamines will be listed by name on the form, the form will only contain the primary ingredient. The forms will be on the department's website and will be faxed to the department.

Greg Pfister moved that the policy as outlined on the form be accepted. Robert Thompson seconded the motion. During discussion, Robert Thompson suggested that the indication of urticaria be added to the form as an additional 'check-box' explanation for prior authorization. It was moved by Greg Pfister that this be added. John Windsor seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote. The original motion for accepting the policy also carried by voice vote.

A presentation was then given by Pfizer for Zyrtec®.

Al Samuelson questioned the need for grandfathering. Brendan Joyce suggested generating a letter for all physicians prescribing antihistamines. This letter would also include a prior authorization form. They letter would explain the policy to the physician

and ask them to fill out the prior authorization form if they wanted the patient to continue on the existing medication.

A presentation was given by a Schering representative for Clarinex®.

Norman Byers asked the board about grandfathering once again. Mary Koenecke suggested that it should be left up to the physician's discretion. Representative Devlin stated that the bill was not meant to intrude on the physician-patient relationship. Al Samuelson moved that the prior authorization policy for antihistamines only apply to new prescriptions. Robert Thompson seconded this motion.

Discussion was held. Ronald Burd questioned this motion since he believes prescribers can be influenced by pharmaceutical companies. Brendan Joyce stated that he agreed with Ronald Burd that prescribers are influenced. He also stated that a prime DUR Board responsibility is education and prior authorization is a form of education. Norman Byers said that there is no reason to beat up on drug representatives. John Windsor said it is prudent to ask physicians to review the drugs. They may be on the most expensive drug, but not necessarily the most efficacious. Robert Thompson agreed that it is appropriate to review. Bob Treitline agreed that the review should happen. John Savageau and Al Samuelson agreed that physician education is needed.

Al Samuelson withdrew his original motion and proposed a modified motion. The motion was that letters should be sent to the prescribers as part of a strong educational program to grandfather the necessary patients to ensure that all information (including cost) was used to select the appropriate antihistamine for the patients. Robert Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried on voice vote.

Brendan Joyce gave a summary of Xolair®. There is limited distribution of this product through mail order pharmacies. The criteria for use is outlined very well in the package insert. The physician is already required to send information to the pharmacy and determination of coverage is based on the package insert criteria. John Savageau questioned the benefits of Xolair® and the logic behind the limited distributorship. Brendan Joyce explained that we are required to cover the product because of OBRA '90 and we may discuss it again on a future agenda. No action was taken by the board.

Discussion was held on the administrative rules for the board. The rules committee process will be done in approximately 9 months and public comments have been officially requested. The DUR Board will discuss the rules at the next meeting.

Presentations were given by pharmaceutical company representative on the following medications: Prevacid®, Protonix®, Aciphex®, and Nexium®.

Brendan Joyce explained the current policy for proton pump inhibitors (two fills per prescription number). Mary Koenecke suggested that all agents should initially be available without restrictions for a period of 60 or 90 days, with subsequent disease specific prior authorization after that time.

Greg Pfister moved that generic/otc omeprazole be allowed without prior authorization while all others would require prior authorization. Robert Thompson seconded the motion. This motion will be discussed at the next meeting.

The next meeting is was scheduled for November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1 pm in the Pioneer Room, Ground Floor, Judicial Wing, State Capitol. To locate the meeting room, please refer to the map available at <http://www.state.nd.us/fac/meetingrooms/vVisiogrdfmrmtgrms.pdf>

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.