The Bulletin of Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) in Ohio Fee-For-Service

Introduction to Change Healthcare
Change Healthcare is the pharmacy benefit administrator for the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM). Their role is to manage and coordinate the Ohio Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) claims process and prior authorization determination activity. Change Healthcare is also delegated to administer the Retrospective Drug Utilization Review (rDUR) program for the Ohio Medicaid FFS population.

Opioids and Stimulants
Purpose
The purpose of this intervention was to notify prescribers of patients under their care who were filling prescriptions for opioid medication(s) in combination with a stimulant. This intervention is in process.

Intervention Criteria
Prescription claims for members taking opioid(s) together with a stimulant were identified.

Intervention Goals
Concurrent use of these drugs is found to be associated with serious comorbidities and risk factors such as an increased risk of substance use disorder, chronic pain, depression, anxiety, PD, and COPD and cardiovascular disease. The combination of a stimulant with an opiate produces a greater effect than either drug alone, which can be fatal.

Background and Standards of Clinical Practice
The combination of stimulants with other drugs with euphoric effects, such as opioids, may increase the risk of drug dependence. Given the increase in stimulant and opioid prescriptions, concerns have intensified regarding increased risk for misuse or abuse of these medications, alone or together, and the sequelae. The goal of this intervention is to encourage prescribers to consider tapering the dose of the opioid, utilizing non-opioid medications and/or non-stimulant medications as part of their multimodal treatment strategy, and to discuss the benefits and risks of long-term coadministration of stimulants and opioids with their patients.

Opioids and Antipsychotics
Purpose
A soft DUR edit was placed at the point of sale to alert pharmacists with a message that there is a drug-drug interaction when an opioid is prescribed concomitantly with an antipsychotic medication. A soft edit will allow the pharmacist to override this interaction.

Intervention Goals
Antipsychotics can have adverse drug interactions with opioids. Pharmacodynamic interactions may occur when these medications are given concomitantly, resulting in increased sedation and cognitive dysfunction.
The goal of this intervention is to encourage prescribers to consider tapering the dose of the opioid, utilizing non-opioid medications and/or reassessing the antipsychotic therapy or use of behavioral therapy as part of their multimodal treatment strategy. Side effects must be monitored.

**Background and Standards of Clinical Practice**

The coadministration of opioids and antipsychotics can result in extrapyramidal and sedating side effects since both of these medications depress the central nervous system (CNS).³

**CMS DUR Annual Report**

Every June 30, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires that all Medicaid states report their DUR activities to them. However, due to COVID-19, this date has been postponed until September 30, 2020. This report is made available to the public once published.

**COVID 19 Testing**

- In June, ODM began reimbursing pharmacies for COVID-19 specimen collection.
- The pharmacy will be paid an administration fee of $23.46 to evaluate the patient, order the test, and collect the specimen.
- Ohio Medicaid is laying out plans for coronavirus point of care testing at pharmacies.

**FDA Drug Safety Communication Second & Third Quarter 2020**

April 24, 2020. The FDA cautions against use of hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine for COVID-19 outside of the hospital setting or a clinical trial due to risk of heart rhythm problems.

July 23, 2020. FDA recommends health care professionals discuss naloxone with all patients when prescribing opioid pain relievers or medicines to treat opioid use disorder.

**References**


The April Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee meeting was canceled.