Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board Quarterly Meeting
November 9, 2021

The ODM DUR Board meeting was called to order at 12:01 PM EST via GoToMeeting
https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4124977711676393740
ODM Pharmacy Staff and DUR Board members attended in person at:
Ohio Department of Medicaid, 50 West Town Street, Room A535

Michael Farrell, M.D., Co-Chair presided

The following Board members were present:
Scott Baran, R.Ph.
Michael Farrell, M.D., Co-Chair
A. Mehran Mostafavifar, M.D.
Donald Sullivan, Ph.D., R.Ph.

Also present from ODM were Michelle Barger, Pharm.D., Sean Eckard, B.S. Pharm.D., Yana Doughty, Pharm.D., and Brian Gallow, Pharm.D. Change Healthcare attendees included Jill R.K. Griffith B.S. Pharm. D., and Gail Master, R.Ph. Approximately 40 observers were present.

The Conflict of Interest Statement

The Conflict of Interest Statement was reviewed with the Board.

Roll Call and Review of Previous Minutes

The September 21, 2021 DUR Board Meeting Minutes were approved.

DUR Committee Report

G. Master presented the re-review results from the multiple antipsychotic intervention. The purpose of this intervention was to notify prescribers of patients under their care who were filling prescriptions for multiple antipsychotic medications. The goal of the intervention was to notify prescribers that antipsychotic polypharmacy is associated with increased sedation, sialorrhea, and increased risk of extra-pyramidal symptoms which can necessitate the addition of anticholinergic medications. This intervention resulted in sixty four percent of members no longer taking multiple antipsychotics.

She then presented the multiple anticholinergic medication intervention. The purpose of this intervention was to alert prescribers about patients taking multiple anticholinergic medications or seeing multiple prescribers who are issuing medications with anticholinergic action and mitigate the risk of undesired additive effects. The goal of the intervention was to assess the need for a member to take multiple medications with anticholinergic action while weighing risks/benefits and considering alternative therapies. Prescriber responses were presented and are still being received.

Next, G. Master presented the intervention and responses from prescribers whose patients were taking two or more opioids in combination with a benzodiazepine. The purpose of this intervention was to notify prescribers that co-prescribing opioids with benzodiazepines increases potential harm to the patient and is
associated with drug interactions and adverse events. The goal of the intervention was to ask prescribers to consider maximizing the use of non-pharmacologic options and alternative medications, and to consider if their patient is a candidate for an opioid taper.

She then presented the monthly program in which prescribers and pharmacists whose patients are taking either medication assisted therapy (MAT) and opioids or MAT and benzodiazepines concomitantly the previous month are contacted. The prescribers’ and pharmacists’ responses were presented. A discussion ensued about further intervention for members who continuously take these medications. Changes to be implemented include more detailed monthly conversations with providers including verification of diagnosis codes, discussions of alternative treatment/medication taper options, and discussion of offering naloxone to members if no claim for such exists.

Lastly, G. Master provided an update to the Board on Coordinated Services Program (CSP) membership. There are currently 236 Fee-for-Service members enrolled in the program.

Health Plan Policy Update

S. Baran presented the Ohio Medicaid Health Plan Policy update. As Medicaid’s Next Generation of Managed Care project continues to work closer to the 7/1/2022 go live date, ODM remains committed to working with both their SPBM and PPAC vendors to ensure a smooth transition for their members and transparency throughout the pharmacy program.

Next, S. Baran stated that in DUR news, ODM is seeking two pharmacists to serve on their Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Committee. Qualified candidates may submit their interest via the Request for Letters of Interest (RFLI) process that posted on November 1st. Interested Ohio-licensed pharmacists may view this listing on the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Procurement Opportunity webpage or via the general ODM webpage and search for ‘Request for Proposals’. Candidates may also refer to the ODM Pharmacy webpage for general information about the DUR program. In related DUR news, two members of the DUR Board have announced their resignations. The ODM Pharmacy team will be working with professional pharmacist organizations to identify new candidates to be recommended for these appointed positions.

S. Baran then stated that ODM’s 2021 Q4 Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee meeting was held on October 6th and the Committee reviewed the entire Unified Preferred Drug List (UPDL) document. Business discussed during the October meeting will go into effect January 1st. In related P&T news, two members of the P&T Committee have announced their resignations. The ODM Pharmacy team is working with the Ohio Osteopathic Association to identify new candidates to be recommended for these appointed positions. Lastly, ODM has recently posted for a Pharmacologist position. Interested pharmacists can find more information about this position on the DAS Careers Portal.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

G. Master presented an overview of a RetroDUR intervention directed at prescribers whose patient’s adherence rate to their controller inhaler was less than sixty percent. The purpose of this intervention was to notify prescribers that suboptimal adherence to pharmacological treatment of asthma and chronic
obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) has adverse effects on disease control and treatment costs. The goal of the intervention was to ask prescribers to discuss potential barriers to adherence with their patient, discuss solutions to the barriers, and educate the patient on the importance of adherence. Prescriber responses are incoming at this time. She then presented an overview of an intervention that will take place for members who are taking high doses or long-term use of butalbital-containing products. The purpose of this intervention is to identify patients receiving high dose and/or long-term use of butalbital-containing products and present guidance which advises against this to prescribers. The goal of the intervention is to have prescribers reevaluate the dose and/or duration of butalbital prescribed to their patient while weighing the risks/benefits, and also encourage tapering off butalbital-containing products if clinically indicated. The prescriber letter was presented, and edits were taken from the Board. The 2022 DUR Calendar was presented. Recommendations were made by the Board for future interventions. 2022 DUR Board elections were tabled until the February 2022 DUR Board meeting. Potential areas of focus for 2022 interventions include polypharmacy, adherence to high risk medications and chronic disease state pharmacotherapy, adult immunizations, and changes in treatment guidelines.

Announcements

There were no announcements from the DUR Board members.

The 2021 calendar was reviewed.

Dates for the 2022 DUR Board meetings were reviewed.

- February 8, 2022
- May 10, 2022
- September 13, 2022
- November 8, 2022

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.