

North Carolina DUR Board Meeting
October 27, 2011
Minutes

Introductions and Public Comments

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM. Public comment was offered, but there was none.

Minutes

Minutes from the July 2011 DUR Board meeting were reviewed. One spelling correction was noted. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as amended. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

Prospective DUR

Pro-DUR Status- August 2011

The August 2011 Pro-DUR Status report was reviewed with the Board and areas of interest were highlighted.

There were no major changes within the Pro-DUR alerts. It was noted that most changes were seasonal or were due to First Data Bank categorization changes.

Top 200 by GC3

The top 200 drug reports were reviewed. It was noted that there has been a general increase in Cymbalta claims, which is reflected in the report.

Retrospective DUR

Tizanidine and Oral Contraceptives

The updated interaction and utilization data was discussed. It was noted that this report is for a more recent time frame. The Board requested that the report be brought back at the next meeting with some changes.

Suggested Action Items

- 1. A new report will be provided at the next meeting. Drug Strength will be added to the report. It will be noted whether the prescriber for the two drugs are different or the same and there are only 1-2 claims for the muscle relaxant during the period.*

Propylthiouracil (PTU) FDA Warning Letter

It was noted that the prescriber profiling letters on the FDA liver damage warning have been sent and some responses have already been received by Magellan. The Board is interested in seeing some of the responses at the next meeting. It was requested by DMA review the recipients who have received very large quantities of PTU. It was also requested that utilization data for methimazole be included in the next meeting.

Suggested Action Items

- 1. Include report of prescriber responses to PTU letter in next meeting packet.*

2. DMA to review claims for large quantities of PTU.
3. Utilization data for methimazole will be reported at the January meeting.

Benzodiazepine Duplication of Therapy

The benzodiazepine duplication report was discussed. It was suggested that the increase in recipients found during the more recent review may be due to an increase in the Medicaid population, not an increase in benzodiazepine utilization. It was discussed and approved that letters be sent to both the prescribers and pharmacies involved in these claims. The pharmacy letter should include information about the NC Controlled Substance website.

Suggested Action Items

1. A Retrodur activity for prescribers and pharmacies will be undertaken for recipients receiving at least 150 units more than one distinct benzodiazepine in 3 months from more than one different prescriber. Information on the NC Controlled Substance website will be included in the letters.

Sympatholytic Hypotensive Duplication of Therapy: Clonidine

The updated utilization report on recipients receiving both clonidine tablets and patches was discussed. It was noted that the recipient age and the number of distinct pharmacies had been added to the report. The Board expressed concern over the potential over use of clonidine, but was interested in what the drug was being used for, generally. It was decided that profiles would be produced for the recipients on the report and that the DMA, CSC and Magellan pharmacists would review them and report any notable trends back to the Board before any decision was made about a possible intervention.

At this time, a sample, redacted patient medical profile was distributed to the Board members and its contents reviewed.

Suggested Action Items

1. Patient Medical Profiles will be produced for the patients identified and they will be reviewed by the DMA, CSC and Magellan pharmacists who will report any notable trends back at the next meeting.

Zyvox and Serotonin Syndrome

The report of the 25 patients who received Zyvox and an SSRI was reviewed. The Board discussed the report and serotonin syndrome in general. It was requested that the medical claims for the 25 patients be reviewed and any diagnosis information that might indicate a serotonin reaction be noted. It was suggested that an article about serotonin syndrome be put in the newsletter.

Suggested Action Items

1. Review the medical claims for the 25 patients on the included report for serotonin syndrome like reactions.
2. Draft an article on serotonin syndrome for the newsletter.

Varenicline

The FDA warning of Jun 2011 on increased cardiovascular events with varenicline was reviewed. The Pfizer representative also gave a brief update on another announcement regarding Chantix®. A discussion of the relative risk of varenicline and the risks of smoking ensued. It was decided that no intervention would be undertaken on this topic.

Simvastatin and Citalopram High Dose Warnings

The updated recommendation on the maximum safe dose of simvastatin and citalopram were discussed. It was noted that the data was collected shortly after the changes were announced and that the intent of including this information in the meeting was to note the changes and recommend that the data be brought back at the January meeting for further consideration. The Board concurred.

Suggested Action Items

1. *Include updated utilization data for simvastatin over 80 mgs per day and citalopram over 40 mgs per day in the January agenda.*

Trigger Report

Most of the significant changes in classes reflected expected seasonal changes. The report was reviewed and accepted.

DUR Board Recommendations and Discussion

The report on the status of previous interventions was reviewed. Planned Retrodur activities for the next quarter were discussed. It was requested that DMA and Magellan review the most current literature regarding clopidogrel and proton pump inhibitors to be sure that there are no changes in the recommendations before that intervention is conducted.

DMA Pharmacy Updates

The DMA status of the cost saving initiatives was reported. It was noted that the current generic dispensing rate is 75.5%.

A+Kids program discussed at the last meeting is in place and proceeding well.

The PDL Panel meeting was September 19, 2011. The approved changes to Vusion and Xolair will be going into effect on November 1. Also, Crestor will be preferred with no requirement to try simvastatin 80mg.

An electronic prior authorization for Synagis® has been initiated.

The dispensing fee for pharmacies will be changing to a tiered fee based on the generic dispensing rate for the pharmacy.

A new policy was passed to prohibit auto refilling of prescriptions.

The next public meeting of the Medical Care Advisory Committee is scheduled for November 4, 2011 from 9 a.m. to noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 PM.

The next DUR meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2012 from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM at the Kirby building, room 297.