HFS
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Healthcare and Family Services

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Drug and Therapeutics Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date | Time: Thursday, October 9th, 2025| 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Location: This meeting was held virtually via Webex Webinar
Audience: Drug and Therapeutics Advisory Board

Board Members Present:
Chair (*)
Vice Chair (**)
Mahesh C. Patel
Janet Albers
Arvind Goyal
Pamela Vergara-Rodriguez
Dr. Lisa-Green
Maurice Shaw
Stephen Sproat
Garry Moreland

Absences Recorded:
Paul Berkowitz
Nicole Florence

HFS and UIC Staff Present:
Jen Phillips
Christine Denton
Claudia Colombo
Melissa Davis
Jennifer DeWitt
Thomas Dorn
Brianna Hudak
Mary Moody
Jose Jimenez
Chintan Patel
Jerome Beverly

A. **Call to Order, Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dr. Mahesh C. Patel on Thursday, October 9th, 2025, at 8:42 a.m.

B. **Roll Call of Council Members:** Dr. Patel facilitated roll call of board members. Quorum was confirmed.

I. **Conflict of Interest Declaration and Approval of Agenda:** No D&T Advisory Board members had conflicts of interest pertinent to the agenda. Dr. Patel reminded the Board members to recuse themselves from the discussion if conflicts of interest are present.

II. **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Dr. Lisa Green moved to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2025, meeting. Dr. Albers seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. **Review and Approval of Meeting Agenda:** Dr. Goyal moved to approve the agenda for the October 9th, 2025, meeting. Dr. Albers seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Preferred Drug List (PDL) Drug Appeals

A. Drug: Orladeyo (berotralstat)
B. Presentation by Jen Phillips, Department Clinical Pharmacist, providing an overview of the FDA-approved indication, relevant clinical guidelines, supporting clinical studies, and the efficacy and safety profile of Orladeyo.
C. Jeff Martin, Pharmacist, spoke on behalf of the manufacturer, BioCryst Pharmaceuticals, advocating for preferred status on the Illinois Preferred Drug List (PDL) for Orladeyo.
D. Board discussion noted that while Orladeyo offers the advantage of being an oral treatment option, its use remains limited, with very few prescriptions or requests observed among Medicaid participants.
E. The motion to keep Oraldeyo as non-preferred was made by Dr. Pamela Vergara-Rodriguez and seconded by Dr. Albers.
F. The unanimous motion was passed.

V. New Drug Appeals- None

VI. Provider Requested Review- None

VII. Drug Class Review: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

A. Presentation by Christine Denton, Department Clinical Pharmacist, providing an overview of the clinical guidelines, efficacy, and safety considerations of stimulant and non-stimulant medications used in the treatment of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).
B. Jia Li, Pharmacist, spoke on behalf of the manufacturer, Supernus Pharmaceuticals, regarding Qelbree.

C. Board members discussed the benefits of having an additional non-stimulant option as preferred on the PDL.
D. The motion to move Qelbree from non-preferred to preferred was made by Pamela Vergara-Rodriguez and seconded by Dr. Lisa-Green.
E. The unanimous motion was passed.

VIII. New Drug Initial Reviews

A. Drug: **Jornavx** (suzetrigine)
    1. Presentation by Jen Phillips, Department Clinical Pharmacist, providing an overview of the most recent clinical guidelines, FDA-approved indication, mechanism of action, and the efficacy and safety of Journavx, with a focus on its role in the management of acute pain.
    2. Jessica Jay, Pharmacist and Associate Director, spoke on behalf of Vertex Pharmaceuticals, advocating for preferred status on the Illinois Preferred Drug List (PDL) for Journavx.
    3. Board members discussed the emerging interest in Journavx, a voltage-gated sodium channel blocker for pain management, noting its potential value as an additional non-opioid treatment option. As a newer agent with limited utilization and not considered a first-line therapy, the Board agreed to allow more time on the market to further evaluate its real-world effectiveness and clinical outcomes.
    4. The motion to keep it non-preferred was made by Dr. Patel and was seconded by Pamela Vergara-Rodriguez.
    5. The motion was passed.
B. Drug: **Symbravo** (meloxicam and rizatriptan)
    1. Presentation by Jen Phillips, Department Clinical Pharmacist, on the most recent clinical guidelines and the efficacy and safety of Symbravo.
    2. Jay Mehta, Pharmacist and Sr. Health outcomes Liaison, spoke on behalf of the manufacturer, Axsome, advocating for preferred status on the Illinois Preferred Drug List (PDL) for Symbravo. Jay Mehta spoke to how Symbravo represents a multi mechanistic approach to treating a migraine that targets multiple pathways and the underlying symptoms of migraine attacks
    3. Board members discussed Symbravo's rapid onset and sustained relief as a potential additional option for the management of migraines. Board members also noted that other combination products, such as Treximet, already exist, and questioned why the two generic components could not be used separately instead of adopting this new combination formulation. It was further observed that the manufacturer appears to be marketing this product as a fast-acting form of meloxicam.
    4. The motion to keep Symbravo non-preferred on the Illinois Medicaid PDL was made by Garry Moreland and seconded by Dr. Goyal.
    5. The motion was passed unanimously.

C. Drug: **Attruby** (acoramidis)
    1. Presentation by Jen Phillips, Department Clinical Pharmacist, on most recent clinical guidelines and the efficacy and safety of Attruby.
    2. Dr. Nitasha Sarswat, rare disease specialist and an advanced heart failure transplant cardiologist at University of Chicago, spoke on the management and treatment of cardiomyopathy and amyloidosis. Dr. Sarswat provided a discussion on Attruby in comparison to other agents listed on the Preferred Drug List (PDL) and offered recommendations regarding which therapy should be considered as the first-line option.
    3. Lisa Tracz, Pharmacist and Associate Director, spoke on behalf of BridgeBio, advocating for preferred status on the Illinois Preferred Drug List (PDL) for Attruby.
    4. The Board discussed that there was no significant difference between Attruby and the other non-preferred options on the Preferred Drug List (PDL); therefore, no change to Attruby's status was recommended.
    5. The motion to keep Attruby non-preferred on the Illinois Medicaid PDL was made by Dr. Patel and seconded by Dr. Goyal.
    6. The motion was passed unanimously.
D. Drug: **Gomekli** (mirdametinib)
    1. Presentation by Jen Phillips, Department Clinical Pharmacist, on the most recent clinical guidelines and the efficacy and safety of Gomekli.
    2. Angelica Munoz, Pharmacist and Principal Medical Science Liaison, spoke on behalf of the manufacturer, SpringWorks Therapeutics, advocating for preferred status on the Illinois Preferred Drug List (PDL) for Gomekli.
    3. The Board discussed that since Gomekli was for a rare disease and that there was no significant difference between Gomekli and the other non-preferred options on the Preferred Drug List (PDL); therefore, no change to Gomekli's status was recommended.
    4. The motion to keep Gomekli non-preferred on the Illinois Medicaid PDL was made by Pamela Vergara-Rodriguez and seconded by Dr. Albers.
    5. The motion was passed unanimously.
E. Drug: **Duvyzat** (givinostat)
    1. Presentation by Jen Phillips, Department Clinical Pharmacist, on the most recent clinical guidelines and the efficacy and safety of Duvyzat.
    2. Justin Alberts, Pharmacist and Medical Science Liaison, spoke on behalf of the manufacturer, ITF Therapeutics, advocating for preferred status on the Illinois Preferred Drug List (PDL) for Duvyzat.
    3. The Board discussed that Duvyzat is indicated for a rare disease and noted no significant difference between Duvyzat and the other non-preferred options on the Preferred Drug List (PDL). It was agreed that treatment decisions should be left to the discretion of the specialist; therefore, no change to Duvyzat's status was recommended.
    4. The motion to keep Duvyzat non-preferred on the Illinois Medicaid PDL was made by Pamela Vergara-Rodriguez and seconded by Dr. Lisa-Green.
    5. The motion was passed unanimously.

IX. Public Comments: None

X. Future Agenda Preview

A. The next D&T meeting is scheduled for January 8th, 2026.

XI. Department Updates: None

XII. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Goyal and seconded by Dr. Albers. The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Approved by the D&T Advisory Board on: 01/08/20206