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Drug and Therapeutics Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date | Time: Thursday, April 9, 2026 | 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: This meeting was held virtually on the WebEx Platform.

Audience: Drug and Therapeutics Advisory Board

Council Members Present:

Chair (*)

Paul Berkowitz
Nicole Florence
Arvind Goyal
Lisa Green-Hill
Garry Moreland
Mahesh C. Patel*
Maurice Shaw
Steven R. Sproat
Pamela Vergara-Rodriguez

HFS and UIC Staff Present:

Nerissa Caballes
Claudia Colombo
Melissa Davis
Heather Freeman
Arvind Goyal
Brianna Hudak
Mary Moody
Chintan Patel
Jen Phillips
Michael Welton

Absences Recorded:

None.

I. **Call to Order**: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dr. Mahesh C. Patel, on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 8:30 AM via the WebEx Platform.

II. **Roll Call of Council Members**: Dr. Patel, facilitated roll call of council members. **Quorum was confirmed**.

III. **Announcements**:

A. **Vice Chairperson Vote**: Arvind Goyal moved to nominate Paul Berkowitz as Vice-Chair of the Drugs and Therapeutics Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Pamela Vergara-Rodriguez. No oppositions. No abstentions. **Motion carried**.

IV. **Approval of Agenda and Conflict of Interest Declaration**:

A. **Approval of Agenda**: a request was made to move the vote for vice chairperson toward the end of the meeting, to allow time for all board members to be able to participate in the vote. The vote for vice chairperson occurred at the end of the meeting.

B. **Conflict of Interest Declaration**: No D&T Advisory Board members had conflicts of interest pertinent to the agenda.

V. **Review and Approval Meeting Minutes**: Dr. Patel called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 8, 2026. Arvind Goyal moved to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Maurice Shaw. No oppositions. No abstentions. **Motion carried**.

VI. **Preferred Drug List (PDL) Drug Appeals**:

A. Drug: **Kesimpta** (ofatumumab injection):

i. External speaker: Shirley Quach, Value Evidence Lead, Novartis Pharmaceutical Corporation, spoke on behalf of the manufacturer, advocating for a change in the PDL status for Kesimpta.

ii. Clinical presentation: Jen Phillips, Department Clinical Pharmacist, provided an overview of the relevant clinical guidelines, supporting clinical studies, and the efficacy and safety profile of Kesimpta.

iii. Board members discussed the number of Medicaid patients in IL who may need this drug. It was reported that Kesimpta represents about 93% of the usage within the class for IL Medicaid patients. The Board also discussed the specialist need for treating this condition.

iv. The motion to leave Kesimpta status as non-preferred on the PDL was moved by Garry Moreland. Mahesh Patel seconded the motion. No oppositions. No abstentions. **Motion carried**.

B. Drug: **Rybelsus** (semaglutide tablet, oral):

i. External speaker: Nikki Asse, Novo Nordisk Inc, spoke on behalf of the manufacturer, advocating for preferred status on the Illinois Preferred Drug List (PDL) for Rybelsus.

ii. Board members discussed the rebranding and reformulation of the drug. Novo Nordisk Inc. has announced it will be rebranding Rybelsus (semaglutide) tablets to Ozempic tablets with different dosing availability; the indications and drug classification will remain the same. This is planned for Q3 2026. There was concern raised that the different dosing could cause confusion.

iii. The motion was made by Arvind Goyal to table this issue until the October meeting, where the decision could be reconsidered. The motion was seconded by Paul Berkowitz. No oppositions. No abstentions. **Motion carried**.

VII. Provider Requested Reviews: None.

VIII. Drug Class Review: Combination Antihypertensive Agents

A. Clinical presentation: Jen Phillips, Department Clinical Pharmacist, provided an overview of the clinical guidelines, efficacy, and safety considerations of combination antihypertensive agents used in the treatment of hypertension.

B. Board members discussed the antihypertensive agents, starting with the ACE inhibitors. Combination drug therapies were discussed. The Board noted that with the new guidelines and evidence, combination antihypertensive products should be more readily available.

C. ACE inhibitor combination antihypertensives were reviewed. The Board agreed that appropriate combinations were available generically and with preferred status on the PDL. The motion not to change the PDL status of any of the ACE combination antihypertensive agents on the PDL was moved by Pamela Vergara-Rodriguez, Mahesh Patel seconded the motion. No oppositions. No abstentions. **Motion carried**.

D. ARB combination antihypertensives were reviewed. A motion was made by Pamela Vergara-Rodriguez to change the status of all ARB combinations that were available generically to preferred status. Paul Berkowitz seconded the motion. No oppositions. No abstentions. **Motion carried**.

E. Beta-blocker combination antihypertensives were reviewed. The Board agreed that appropriate combinations were available generically and without PA. The motion not to change the PDL status of any of the beta-blocker combinations on the PDL was moved by Pamela Vergara-Rodriguez. Nicole Florence seconded the motion. No oppositions. No abstentions. **Motion carried**.

IX. New Drug Initial Review:

A. **Crenessity (crinecefront capsule and solution)**:

i. Clinical presentation: Jen Phillips, Department Clinical Pharmacist, provided an overview of the relevant clinical guidelines, supporting clinical studies, and the efficacy and safety profile of Crenessity.

ii. External speaker: Leia Roeges, MCL, Neurocrine Biosciences spoke on behalf of the manufacturer, requesting that the committee allow access to Crenessity with criteria aligned with its FDA approved label and clinical studies.

iii. Public comment: Courtney Finlayson also provided comment in support of broadening access to Crenessity. Dr. Finlayson identified a conflict of interest, as she is a speaker for Neurocrine Biosciences.

iv. The Board discussed the rarity of the disease, the novelty of the drug, and its lack of long-term data. It was discussed that non-preferred on the PDL doesn't mean "not covered," it is covered with prior authorization. The motion to maintain Crenessity as non-preferred on the PDL was moved by Mahesh Patel. Nicole Florence seconded the motion. No oppositions. No abstentions. **Motion carried**.

B. **Brinsupri (brensocatib tablet)**:

i. Clinical presentation: Jen Phillips, Department Clinical Pharmacist, provided an overview of the relevant clinical guidelines, supporting clinical studies, and the efficacy and safety profile of Brinsupri.

ii. External speaker: Brian Roslund, Medical Outcome Liaison, Insmed, Inc. spoke on behalf of the manufacturer, requesting a PDL status change for Brinsupri.

iii. The Board discussed the novelty of the drug and its lack of long-term data. The motion to maintain Brinsupri as non-preferred on the PDL was moved by Pamela

Vergara-Rodriguez. Nicole Florence seconded the motion. No oppositions. No abstentions. **Motion carried**.

C. **Rhapsido (remibrutinib tablet)**:

i. Clinical presentation: Jen Phillips, Department Clinical Pharmacist, provided an overview of the relevant clinical guidelines, supporting clinical studies, and the efficacy and safety profile of Rhapsido.

ii. External speaker: Shirley Quach, Novartis Pharmaceutical Corp. spoke on behalf of the manufacturer, requesting that the committee consider a change in PDL status for Rhapsido.

iii. The Board discussed the treatment landscape for chronic spontaneous urticaria, the lack of head-to-head trials with remibrutinib (Dr. Quach indicated additional data will be coming out in 2027), and lack of long-term data. The motion to maintain Rhapsido as non-preferred on the PDL was moved by Pamela Vergara-Rodriguez. Arvind Goyal seconded the motion. No oppositions. No abstentions. **Motion carried**.

X. Public Comments: None.

XI. Additional Business Old & New:

XII. Future Agenda Preview:

A. Brief overview of July's agenda, which will include a review of the biologic class, given new indications, new agents, and new biosimilars.

XIII. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 10:24 AM.

A. **Motion**: Mahesh Patel called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nicole Florence moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Paul Berkowitz. No oppositions. No abstentions. **Motion carried**.

Approved by the D&T Advisory Board on: 7/9/26