HFS
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Healthcare and Family Services

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Drug and Therapeutics Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date | Time: Thursday, April 10, 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

Council Members Present:
Chair (*)
Vice Chair(**)
Mahesh C. Patel, MD (*)
Maurice Shaw, PharmD
Arvind Goyal, MD
Garry Moreland
Nicole Florence, MD
Stephen Sproat
Pamela Vergara-Rodriguez, MD
Paul Berkowitz Santina Wheat, MD

Absences Recorded:
Janet Albers, MD (**)

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

A. **Call to Order, Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mahesh C. Patel on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 8:30 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. Goyal moved to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2025, meeting. Dr. Florence seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. **Preferred Drug List (PDL) Appeals**

A. Drug: Lybalvi (Olanzapine/Samidorphan)
B. Presentation on clinical efficacy and safety.
C. Public comment by Dr. Hugo Solari on behalf of the manufacturer advocating for preferred status on the Illinois Preferred Drug List (PDL).
D. Board discussion on adherence, metabolic concerns, and outcomes.
E. The motion to move Lybalvi to preferred without prior authorization was made by Dr. Berkowitz and seconded Dr. Goyal.
F. The unanimous motion was passed.

IV. **Drug Class Review: Growth Hormones**

A. Drug presentation on short-acting and long-acting growth hormones.
B. Public comment by Dr. Paul Miner regarding Skytrofa, emphasizing adherence benefits and clinical efficacy.
C. Board members discussed adherence challenges and benefits of long-acting formulations. Consideration was given to clinical equivalence and improved compliance amongst the various agents.
D. The motion to move Skytrofa, Sogroya, and Ngenla to preferred with prior authorization was made by Garry Moreland and seconded Dr. Vergara-Rodriguez.
E. The motion was passed with majority approval with one abstention.

V. **New Drug Initial Reviews**

A. Drug: Ojemda (tovorafenib)
    1. Presentation on clinical efficacy and safety
    2. Public comment by Dr. Erin Lampson, who provided additional insights into Ojemda's clinical benefits, safety profile, and its importance for patients with limited treatment options.
    3. Board members discussed the rarity of the condition, limited current utilization data, and the appropriateness of maintaining non-preferred status given the drug's recent approval and specialized use.

4. The motion to keep Ojemda non-preferred status was made by Dr. Vergara-Rodriguez and was seconded by Dr. Florence.
5. The motion was passed.

B. Drug: Aqneursa (acetyl-DL-leucine)
1. Presentation on clinical efficacy and safety
2. Public comment by Dr. Beth Zanrucha spoke to the clinical benefits observed in trials, including significant neurological improvement during treatment periods
3. Board members discussed the rarity of Niemann-Pick Disease Type C (NPC) and limited utilization data.
4. The motion to keep Aqneursa non-preferred on the Illinois Medicaid PDL was made by Dr. Vergara-Rodriguez and seconded by Garry Moreland.
5. The motion was passed unanimously.

C. Drug: Libervant (Diazepam Buccal Film)
1. Presentation on clinical efficacy and safety
2. Public comment by Dr. Nils Confer.
3. The board decided to table the discussion until FDA approval is finalized.
4. The motion to table the vote until FDA approval was made by Gr. Goyal and seconded by Garry Moreland.
5. The motion was passed unanimously.

D. Drug: Ohtuvair (Ensifentrine)
1. Presentation on clinical efficacy and safety
2. Public comment by Dr. Alex Jones.
3. The board discussed clinical trial data, efficacy, safety concerns, and its place in therapy.
4. A motion was made by Mahesh C. Patel to maintain Ohtuvair as non-preferred on the Illinois Medicaid formulary. The motion was seconded by Dr. Pamela Vergara-Rodriguez.
5. The motion was passed unanimously.

VI. Future Agenda Preview

A. The next D&T meetings are scheduled for July 10, 2025, and October 9, 2025.

VII. Provider Requested Review

A. Drug: Cefpodoxime Suspension
1. Public comment by Dr. Emily Keller requesting that cefpodoxime suspension be added to the PDL due to its superior coverage for Streptococcus pneumoniae in pediatric patients with penicillin allergies.
2. A motion was made by Garry Moreland to move Cefpodoxime suspension from non-preferred to preferred status without prior authorization for all age groups. The motion was seconded by Dr. Arvind Goyal.
3. The motion was passed unanimously.

VIII. Department Updates

A. Jose Jimenez provided updates regarding the reinstatement of the prior authorization system following a cyber-attack, with a 90-day transition period.

IX. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Nicole Florence and seconded by Dr. Paul Berkowitz. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Approved by the DUR Advisory Board on: