



HFS

Illinois Department of
Healthcare and Family Services

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Drug and Therapeutics Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date | Time: Thursday, July 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 (*)

Janet Albers, MD (**)

Arvind Goyal, MD

Nicole Florence, MD

Pamela Vergara-Rodriguez, MD

Paul Berkowitz Santina Wheat, MD

Dr. Lisa Green, MD

Maurice Shaw, PharmD

Stephen Sproat

Absences Recorded:

Garry Moreland

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 Dr. Mahesh C. Patel on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 8:32 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 April 10, 2025, meeting. Dr. Berkowitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Preferred Drug List (PDL) Drug Appeals

- A. Drug: Sutab and Suflave
- B. Presentation by Jen Phillips, Department Clinical Pharmacist, on the most recent clinical guidelines and the efficacy and safety of Sutab and Suflave.
- C. Michael Beckelic, Director of Medical Affairs, spoke on behalf of the manufacturer, Braintree Laboratories, advocating for preferred status on the Illinois Preferred Drug List (PDL) for Sutab and Suflave.
- D. Board discussion on adherence and outcomes.
- E. The motion to move Sutab and Suflave to preferred without prior authorization was made by Dr. Albers and seconded by Dr. Vergara-Rodriguez.
- F. The unanimous motion was passed.

IV. New Drug Appeals- None

V. Provider Requested Review- None

VI. Drug Class Review: Pancreatic Enzymes

- A. Presentation by Jen Phillips, Department Clinical Pharmacist, on the most recent clinical guidelines and the efficacy and safety of pancreatic enzymes.
- B. Eileen Potter, MS, RDN, Pediatric Dietician, spoke on behalf of the manufacturer, Digestive Care, regarding the product Pertzye.
- C. Board members discussed clinical equivalence and tolerability amongst the various agents.
- D. The motion to keep Creon and Zenpep preferred and leave Pertzye and Viokace as non-preferred. The motion was made by Dr. Patel and seconded Dr. Vergara-Rodriguez.
- E. The unanimous motion was passed.

VII. New Drug Initial Reviews

- A. Drug: Cobenfy (xanomeline and trospium chloride)
 - 1. Presentation by Jen Phillips, Department Clinical Pharmacist, on most recent clinical guidelines and the efficacy and safety of Cobenfy.

2. Patrick Boland PharmD, spoke on behalf of the manufacturer, Bristol Myers Squibb, advocating for preferred status on the Illinois Preferred Drug List (PDL) for Cobenfy.
 3. Board members discussed the lack of long-term data on Cobenfy and its appropriate place in therapy.
 4. The motion was made to table this vote to a later meeting until more long-term data is available. The motion was made by Dr. Berkowitz and was seconded by Dr. Goyal.
 5. The motion was passed.
- B. Drug: **Alyftrek** (vanzacaftor/tezacaftor/deutivacaftor)
1. Presentation by Jen Phillips, Department Clinical Pharmacist, on the most recent clinical guidelines and the efficacy and safety of Alyftrek
 2. Jessica Jay, Associate Director, spoke on behalf of the manufacturer, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, advocating for preferred status on the Illinois Preferred Drug List (PDL) for Alyftrek.
 3. Board members discussed whether Alyftrek should be moved from non-preferred to preferred based on the clinical guidelines, efficacy, and safety.
 4. The motion to keep Alyftrek non-preferred on the Illinois Medicaid PDL was made by Dr. Vergara-Rodriguez and seconded by Dr. Patel.
 5. The motion was passed unanimously.
- C. Drug: **Neffy** (Epinephrine nasal spray)
1. Presentation by Jen Phillips, Department Clinical Pharmacist, on the most recent clinical guidelines and the efficacy and safety of Neffy
 2. Ike Urhohide, Medical Science Liaison, spoke on behalf of the manufacturer, ARS Pharmaceuticals, advocating for preferred status on the Illinois Preferred Drug List (PDL) for Neffy
 3. The board discussed the benefits of having a needle-free epinephrine option available.
 4. The motion to move Neffy from non-preferred to preferred was made by Dr. Florence and seconded by Dr. Albers.
 5. The motion was passed unanimously.

VIII. Public Comments:

- A. Lynn Lochner APRN and Tony Ohlhausen, Director of Research and Policy, spoke as requested by the manufacturer, Bristol Myers Squibb, advocating for preferred status on the Illinois Preferred Drug List (PDL) for Cobenfy.
- B. Riya Jain, college student with personal experience, spoke as requested by the manufacturer, ARS Pharmaceuticals, advocating for preferred status on the Illinois Preferred Drug List (PDL) for Neffy.

IX. Future Agenda Preview

- A. The next D&T meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2025.

X. Department Updates

- A. Jose Jimenez gave an update regarding the department's progress in implementing legislation which will continue through January.

- XI. Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Goyal and seconded by Dr. Albers. The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Approved by the D&T Advisory Board on: