

**Meeting of the
Medicaid Physician Advisory Committee (MPAC)
Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)
600 East Broad Street, Suite 1300
Richmond, Virginia**

July 15, 2003

Present:

Dr. Frederic Garner
Dr. William Cook
Mr. Lawrence Bates
Dr. Swaeng Woraratanadharm
Dr. Karen Rheuban
Dr. Lornel Tompkins
Dr. Daphne Bryan
Dr. Todd L. vanden Hoek
Dr. Mark Arner
Dr. Eloise Haun (on phone)

DMAS Staff:

Cindi Jones, Chief Deputy Director
Cheryl Roberts, Deputy Director of Operations
Jim Cohen, Director, Program Support Division
Moses Adiele, M.D., Director, Medical Support Services
Craig Markva, Manager, Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs
Chris Schroeder, Committee Liaison

Absent:

Dr. Leon Brown
Dr. Christine Matson

Adoption of April 24, 2003 minutes

Cindi Jones opened the meeting and thanked all the members for attending. She asked the Committee members to review the minutes from the April 24 meeting. The Committee members unanimously approved the minutes.

Implementation of a statewide Antibiotic Resistance Campaign

Ms. Kate Grant with the Virginia Department of Health gave a presentation on the agency's implementation of a statewide antibiotic resistance campaign (see attached presentation). After the presentation some of the Committee members had questions and discussion occurred. Dr. William Cook stated that the media have finally received the

message concerning antibiotics and that the public is beginning to understand its importance. Dr. Eloise Haun added that she believes further education for doctors and patients about appropriate antibiotic use is a good idea especially in her area of the state. Dr. Frederic Gardner had a question about interaction with schools. Ms. Grant said that plans include coordinating efforts with the PTA and school nurses to help educate the parents about this program. Dr. Karen Rheuban suggested Dr. Lee Grossman at UVA who would be a good contact for Ms. Grant.

Telemedicine

Jeff Nelson, Senior Policy Analyst with the Policy Division gave a presentation on DMAS' Telemedicine Program (see attached presentation). Discussion of the program included the issue of phone consultations and reimbursement. Dr. Rheuban stated that this is a great program that will help cut down on fraud throughout the state. Dr. Huan added that telemedicine would be very valuable in her part of the state and would be a great way of getting services to people in rural areas.

Preferred Drug List (PDL)

Cindi Jones, Chief Deputy Director for DMAS gave a presentation on the development of a Medicaid Preferred Drug List program (see attached presentation). Ms. Jones told the Committee that DMAS will use every method possible to make the new PDL system work for physicians. Dr. Lornel Tompkins inquired as to why there were no practicing physicians appointed to the Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee. Ms. Jones responded that several of the P&T Committee members still are practicing physicians and that other members were appointed to represent other interests on the Committee.

Calculation of Provider Rates

Scott Crawford, Director of Provider Reimbursement for DMAS gave a presentation on payment for physician services by the Virginia Medicaid program (see attached presentation). Dr. Cook opened the discussion after the presentation by stating that Medicaid reimbursement rates are too low for the doctors and asked when the rates were going to increase. Dr. Cook also asked Mr. Crawford for a list of what other states pay their doctors. Dr. Todd vanden Hoek had a copy of a General Assembly Committee white paper that was done on reimbursement rates. A copy of this white paper was given to the Committee members. Dr. Gardner stated that malpractice insurance in the state has become so high that there is going to be a crisis with the cost of malpractice insurance and the low reimbursement rates that doctors are paid in the Medicaid system. Dr. Tompkins agreed with Dr. Gardner's statement.

Definition of Medical Necessity and Experimental/Investigative Criteria

Dr. Moses Adiele, Director of Medical Support Services for DMAS distributed materials to the Committee members concerning the definition of medical necessity and experimental/investigative criteria. He asked that the Committee members look over the material and the Committee could discuss this issue at the next meeting of the MPAC.

Next Meeting and Agenda Items

Cindi Jones thanked the Committee members and presenters for their participation. The next meeting of the MPAC will be on October 14 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. The agenda items that were suggested for the next meeting were: **Electronic Claims, Traditional Medicaid compared to Medicaid HMO's and FAMIS, definition of medical necessity and experimental/investigative criteria, and Flexible mental health and partial hospitalization.**