

Name of Meeting: Pharmacy Liaison Committee

Date of Meeting: July 14, 2022

Length of Meeting: 1 Hour and 27 minutes

Location of Meeting: DMAS  
600 E. Broad Street,  
Richmond VA 23219

**Committee Members Present:**

Richard Grossman, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)

John Seymour, Independent Pharmacies

Christina Barrille, Virginia Pharmacists Association (VPhA)

Derek Parvizi, PharmD, Chain Drug Stores Association (Walgreens)

**DMAS Staff Present:**

Chethan Bachireddy, MD, CMO

MaryAnn McNeil, RPh, Pharmacy Manager

Rachel Cain, PharmD

JoeMichael Fusco, PharmD

Kiara Jasper, MHA, CPhT

Nettie Emmelhainz, PharmD

Andrew Mitchell

Donna Proffitt, RPh

Cheryl Roberts, JD, Acting Agency Director

Theresa Fowlkes, Executive Assistant

**Other Attendees:**

*Total number of attendees was 21 including representatives from pharmaceutical companies, providers, advocates, associates, etc.*

Caroline Juran, RPh, Executive Director, Virginia Board of Pharmacy

Jodi Roth, VACDS

Doug Gray, VAHP

John Minnec, VIV Healthcare

Laurie Mauthe, Anthem Health keepers

Valentina Vega, Medical Society of VA

Sofia Dibich, Secretary of HHR

Kristi Fowler, United Healthcare

**Introductions**

MaryAnn McNeil welcomed everyone and asked the Committee members to introduce themselves. Dr.Bachireddy, CMO, made opening remarks and thanked the members of

the PLC and the DMAS team for their time and continued service to improve the program

## **Call to Order**

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 2, 2021**

Ms. McNeil asked if there were any corrections, additions, or deletions to the draft meeting minutes from December 2021. With none noted, Dr. Parvizi motioned to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. Mrs. Barrille seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

### **Suboxone file and buprenorphine/naloxone SL tabs access updates**

On May 5, 2022, DMAS required all of the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to match the DMAS dispensing fee \$10.65 for Suboxone products. Presently, there are regulations for only one dispensing fee per month. Ms. McNeil requested the committee to direct any issues with these fees to DMAS for review. It is DMAS' intent to write a decision brief to address and change the dispensing fee to per prescription. However, this change will need to be reviewed and approved by the General Assembly (GA). There was much discussion by the committee regarding the addition of other drugs and the current regulation.

### **2022 General Assembly Updates: Nettie Emmelhainz, PharmD**

DMAS did officially have co-pays removed from FAMIS with the caveat in certain situations where a brand is dispensed in place of a generic the difference in price would be paid by the member.

Two bills went to General Assembly.

**House Bill 1323** – Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians; initiation of treatment with and dispensing and administration of vaccines. Allows pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, acting under the supervision of a pharmacist, to initiate treatment, dispense and administer vaccines for COVID-19, nicotine replacement and other tobacco cessation therapies, tests for COVID-19 and other coronaviruses to persons aged 18 years and older and vaccines included on the Immunization Schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and vaccines for COVID-19 and tests for COVID-19 and other coronaviruses to persons three years of age or older in accordance with a statewide protocol established by the Board of Medicine in collaboration with the Board of Pharmacy and the Department of Health. The bill also directs the Board of Medicine, in collaboration with the Board of Pharmacy and the Department of Health, to develop such statewide protocol by November 1, 2022, and directs the Board of Pharmacy to adopt emergency regulations to implement the provisions of the bill. The bill also provides that when services related to the initiation of treatment with or dispensing or administration of a vaccination by a pharmacist, pharmacy technician, or pharmacy intern provided for by the state plan for medical assistance services are provided in accordance with the provisions of the bill, the Department of Medical Assistance Services shall provide reimbursement for such services. Finally, the bill provides that provisions related to administration of COVID-19 vaccines to and testing for COVID-19 of minors

shall become effective upon the expiration of the provisions of the federal Declaration under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19 related to the administration of COVID-19 vaccines to and testing for COVID-19 of minors. Dr. Emmelhainz stated pharmacies need to sign up for the Vaccines For Children program. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) pays for these vaccines and the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) pays the administration fee.

**House Bill 1046** – Directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to study options for and develop a plan to implement a process by which recipients shall receive a card that may be used to purchase over-the-counter medications and medical supplies prescribed by an authorized prescriber directly in a retail setting and to report its findings and plan to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committees on Appropriations and Health, Welfare and Institutions and the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations and Education and Health by December 1, 2022. DMAS is in the process of meeting with a vendor and will probably use a similar structure used by Medicare OTC products.

### **Cardinal Care Contract**

The Cardinal Care program has been delayed until January 1, 2023. Cardinal Care was a General Assembly mandate and will connect members to the care that they need when they need it and reduce transitions between Commonwealth Coordinated Care Plus (CCC Plus) and Medallion 4 plans. Medallion 4.0 serves children, pregnant individuals and adults. CCC Plus serves older adults, disabled children and adults, and individuals receiving long-term services and supports (LTSS). This contract will consolidate to allow each MCO to serve members in both plans, alleviating duplication of services and reporting requirements. The fee-for-service program will continue to serve newly enrolled members for a short time as well as those with limited health coverage.

### **Hepatitis C and HIV**

The Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee voted to remove the service authorization requirements on preferred medications indicated for the treatment of Hepatitis C infections. All pharmacies contracted with Virginia Medicaid may dispense the preferred medications with members having the option to utilize specialty or retail pharmacies.

In addition, the committee voted to close the HIV class on the Preferred Drug List (PDL).

## **PRSS**

Medicaid Enterprise System Integration – DMAS implemented a new provider enrollment system module on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The goal is for the system to be CURES compliant by fall of 2023..

## **Pharmacist Provider Status**

There was much discussion by the committee regarding pharmacist provider status. There are many questions surrounding the training, certification, payment and logistics of pharmacist in this role. Ms. McNeil has reached out to DMAS legal Department and this would have to receive approval from the General Assembly to have a funding source to pay the pharmacists. Mrs. Juran shared the Virginia Board of Pharmacy has no discussion on pharmacist's provider status but has had discussions around access concerns regarding patient care. Ms. McNeil recommended the committee reach out to their constituents to gather ideas and form a group to work through the issues.

## **MCO Pharmacy Partnerships**

Kristi Fowler, RPh, Director of Pharmacy, United HealthCare (UHC), gave a brief summary of UHC's partnership with community pharmacies. Some of their programs include value based programs, Diabetes management programs, Medication Therapy Management (MTM), and health screening. UHC's goal is to provide services for our community pharmacist and the relationship with the community United continue to work with access to provide services for our community pharmacist and the relationship with community.

Laurie Maulthie, PharmD, Director of Pharmacy, Anthem, shared that Anthem has strong clinical programs and work closely with population health and home health.

## **Other Business**

*None*

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.