

Name of Meeting: Pharmacy Liaison Committee
Date of Meeting: December 1, 2022
Length of Meeting: 10:00AM – 12:00PM
Location of Meeting: DMAS – Conference Room A & B 1st Floor

Committee Members Present:

Keith Hodges designee for Christina Barrille, Virginia Pharmacists Association (VPhA)

Committee Members Online:

David Christian - Virginia Community Healthcare Association (VCHA)
Richard Grossman, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)
Bill Hancock – Long Term Care Pharmacy Coalition

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

Other Attendees:

Total number of attendees was 16 including representatives from pharmaceutical companies, providers, advocates, associates, etc.

Crista Christian-Sullivan, VDH, Director, Virginia Vaccines Supply and Assessment
Laurie Mauthe, Anthem Health keepers
Kristi Fowler, United Healthcare
Charles Williams
Heidi Dix

Introductions

MaryAnn McNeil welcomed everyone and asked the Committee members to introduce themselves.

Call to Order

Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 14, 2022

Maryann McNeil asked if there were any corrections, additions, or deletions to the draft meeting minutes from July 2022. With none noted, David Christian made a motion to approve the minutes and Bill Hancock seconded the motion.

Charge for the Committee

Ms. McNeil reviewed and discussed the charge of the Committee as stated below. She and Dr. Cain contacted each committee member for topics to discuss prior to this meeting.

The 2022 Appropriation Act, Item 304. L. The Department of Medical Assistance Services shall implement continued enhancements to the drug utilization review (DUR) program. The department shall continue the Pharmacy Liaison Committee and the DUR Board. The department shall continue to work with the Pharmacy Liaison Committee, meeting at least semi-annually, to implement initiatives for the promotion of cost-effective services delivery as may be appropriate. The department shall solicit input from the Pharmacy Liaison Committee regarding pharmacy provisions in the development and enforcement of all managed care contracts. The Pharmacy Liaison Committee shall include a Department of Medical Assistance Services Department of Medical Assistance Services Pharmacy Liaison Committee Meeting representative from the Virginia Community Healthcare Association to represent pharmacy operations and issues at federally qualified health centers in Virginia. The department shall report on the Pharmacy Liaison Committee's and the DUR Board's activities to the Board of Medical Assistance Services and to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees and the Department of Planning and Budget no later than December 15 each year of the biennium.

Vaccines for Children Program – Crista Christian-Sullivan from VDH

Ms. Sullivan gave an overview of the children and adult programs, immunization for children programs, and effects of recent developments. These programs include Vaccines for Adults (VFA) and Vaccines for Children (VFC). There was much discussion on how to resolve issues such as reimbursement barriers, inventory concerns, drug storage requirements, and patient eligibility.

5 Dispensing fees/rolling 30 days Implementation December 1

Ms. McNeil provided an update on the 5 dispensing fees. DMAS fee-for-service (FFS) and the Medicaid Managed Care Organizations will provide up to five professional dispense fees per month (defined as a rolling 30-day period) for buprenorphine-based opioid use disorder (OUD) products, effective December 1, 2022.

Prior to this, FFS reimbursement for pharmacy services included only one professional dispensing fee per member per month for each specific drug. However, as defined

in [12VAC30-80-40](#), “Exceptions to the monthly dispensing fees shall be allowed for drugs determined by the department to have unique dispensing requirements.” The Department determined that buprenorphine-based SUD products meet the standard of unique dispensing requirements as standard of care includes multiple prescriptions per month of these medications, especially during the induction and dose-finding phases of treatment.

The Medicaid MCOs are required to follow the FFS schedule for these products therefore this change in reimbursement applies.

Pharmacist Provider Workgroup:

The workgroup met twice in 6 months and reached out to 11 states including Ohio. The leader of the workgroup, Dr. Fusco, acknowledged the contributions that pharmacist play in the group of clinical based providers. Next steps will depend on direction from the Governor and General Assembly.

Member Eligibility Revalidation:

Virginia is still under the Federal Public Health Emergency. Medicaid did not disenroll any members during this time with current enrollment of approximately 2.1 million members. Once the Federal Public Health Emergency end, projected to be April of 2023, DMAS will be revalidating all members. Once that directive is given, DMAS will notify all members of providers with information on this process.

Other Business

MaryAnn McNeil polled all members regarding holding these meetings virtually and in person for members only and the Committee agreed with her recommendation.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2023

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.