

**Division of Health Care, Quality, Financing and Purchasing
Center for Operations and Pharmacy Management
Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday April 7, 2009
8:00 AM
EDS
171 Service Avenue Building 1 Suite 100
Warwick, Rhode Island**



P&T Members Present: Tara Higgins, RPh, CGP, CDOE
Kristina Ward, Pharm D
David Feeney, RPh, Chairperson
Gregory Allen, MD
Richard Wagner, MD
Charles Gross
Rita Marcoux, RPh, Co-Chairperson
Mathew Salisbury, MD

Others Present: Paula Avarista, RPh, MBA (RI Medical Assistance Program)
Ray Maxim, MD (RI Medical Assistance Program)
Karen Mariano, RPh (Electronic Data Systems)
Raquel Holmes, RPh (First Health/Coventry Health Systems)
Ann Bennett (Electronic Data Systems)

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Feeney at 8:05 AM. After welcoming and introductory remarks, the meeting minutes of the December 2, 2008 meeting were reviewed. All members voted in favor to accept the minutes as presented.

The public comment portion of the meeting began. Representatives from the following Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Companies gave presentations: GlaxoSmith Kline, Schering-Plough, Sanofi-Aventis, EMD Serono, Abbott, Roche, Amylin, Pfizer, Teva Gate, Biogen Idec, Lilly, Novo Nordisk, Daiichi-Sankyo and Merck & Co. Also presentations were given Dr. D. Fried, Dr. D. Hochberger, and Dr. Bansal. We continue to have problems with speakers not signing up to speak and delaying the public comment portion of the meeting. The sign in form will be redesigned to address this problem.

Raquel Holmes from First Health gave the presentations of the drug classes to be reviewed. A discussion among the committee members followed each class review. Voting took place at the end of each review. A rereview of the following drug classes were done: Biophosphonates, Hypoglycemic agents (oral, injectable), Lipotropics-other, Triglyceride Lowering Agents, Proton Pump Inhibitors, Topical Acne Agents, Multiple Sclerosis Agents, Ophthalmic NSAIDS and Growth Hormones. Most of the changes in these classes were either introduction of cost effective generics, where the brand was moved to non-preferred status, or introduction of new entities to an existing class that were put on as non-preferred. First Health had recommended that all insulin vials now be

covered but pens and cartridges to be non-preferred. The committee agreed with that recommendation but also asked that rapid acting insulin pens/cartridges that are used at mealtimes also be covered. It was also recommended that the step-therapy used to determine coverage for Januvia also be used for Byetta.

The new class that was reviewed was Psoriasis Agents, topical. The committee agreed with the recommendations of First Health but did ask that any beneficiary currently using Taclonex be grandfathered in since this agent was moving to non-preferred status.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM. Next meeting is scheduled for Tues, June 2, 2009.