

## New Jersey Drug Utilization Review Board February 2006 Meeting Summary

Issue	Attachment*	Action	Notes
<b>Roll Call</b>			Present: Dr. Swee, Dr. Gooen, Dr. Gochfeld, Dr. Kuper, Dr. Woodward, Dr. Marcus, Ms, Rodriguez, Mr. Schafer , Ms. Olson, Dr. Barberio, Dr. Moynihan, Dr. Lichtbroun Absent: Dr. Cavalieri, Dr. Moore
<b>Review of minutes</b>	Pages 3-5; blue tab	Approved	Minutes from the October, 2005 meeting were approved.
<b>Secretary's Report</b>	Page 7; clear tab		Patricia Hafitz reported that The DHS Commissioner has signed off on the Annual Report SFY04 and the Board's recommendations from the October 2005 meeting, but signed copies of each have not been returned from the DOH Commissioner. Dr. Zanna will continue to assist in tracking the documents. The recommendations from the January 05 meeting have been signed by both Commissioners, and coverage of OTC iron products is expected to begin 2/13/06. Construction of a DURB website linked to the State website has begun, and should be up and running soon. The initial information contained on the web page includes a schedule of the meeting dates, which can be opened individually for the agendas and minutes. The Board members are listed on the web page, as well as contact information (through Office of Utilization Management). In response to the Board's request for the number of beneficiaries who are enrolled in methadone programs, it was reported that there were paid claims for 5379 patients for 7/1/05 through 12/31/05. In this time period, there were 3937 request for PA with narcotics, with 2643 approvals and 1294 denials. The Board requested that this information be broken out into the actual number of patients receiving narcotics while on methadone.

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<b>Business</b>			
A. Transition to Unisys			Ed Vaccaro reported that the contract with First Health Services terminated December 30, 2005. DMAHS assumed the responsibility for the Medical Exception Process program, by building a clinical unit at the fiscal agent, Unisys. There are presently 9 pharmacists employed there, this is expected to increase. Dalia Hannah, Pharm D., who was with First Health, is now at Unisys; she runs the drug utilization review center. Sam Emenike, Pharm D., is a new member of the Unisys staff.
B. Drug Utilization Review Presentation			Dr. Emenike presented utilization statistics from 2001 to 2005. Additional printed material was distributed, and will be kept on file with the permanent record of the agenda stored by DMAHS.
<b>C. Action Items</b>			
1. Proton Pump Inhibitors	Pages 11-14; yellow tab	Recommendation	The Board recommended that the State cover OTC proton pump inhibitors, without applying any prior authorization right now. It was felt that these drugs represented a cost-effective alternative for appropriate patients, but the fact that they would not be covered prevented prescribers from writing for them. A prescription would be required for the OTC drug. The Board would like to review utilization data again after the change is implemented, as concern remains about the overutilization of this class of drugs in general.
2. Plavix	Pages 15-34; red tab	Tabled	The Board asked that the State analyze the utilization data for Plavix in relationship to medical claims to gather data about diagnoses and procedures.
<b>D. Informational Highlights</b>			
1. Medicare Part D			Kaye Morrow reported that the Part D edits were turned off on Jan 6 because so many clients were unable to receive their medications. The State has daily contact with CMS, and although Feb 15 is the target date to turn the edits back on, that date may be moved. There are still many issues. Although more people do have their identification cards, there are still problems with people being charged copays and deductibles. The State has been assured that the federal government

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			<p>will reimburse the state dollar for dollar for costs incurred. This figure is about 30 million dollars right now. The transition to Part D will leave a smaller population in fee for service ( approx 60,000), and Dr. Swee would like the Board to look at the managed care side as well. A meeting will be arranged with Dr. Simone, Dr. Swee, Mr. Schafer, Dr. Moynihan and Dr. Gooen to discuss this. The Board also inquired about the number of clients enrolled in ADDP; Dr. Zanna will report back regarding this.</p>