



---

**Department of Vermont Health Access  
Pharmacy Benefit Management Program  
DUR Board Meeting Minutes: 04/09/2013**

**Board Members:**

**Present:**

Jaskanwar Batra, MD  
Jeanne Greenblatt, MD  
Amanda Kennedy, PharmD

Gary Starecheski, RPh  
James Marmar, RPh  
Joseph Lasek, MD, Chair

Kim Ladue, NP  
Janet Farina, RPh

**Absent:**

Halle Sobel, MD

Mario Sarafini, DO

Mark Pasanen, MD

**Staff:**

Diane Neal, RPh, Catamaran  
Stacey Baker, DVHA  
Jennifer Egelhof, DVHA

Michelle Sirois, Catamaran  
Mary Beth Bizzari, RPh, DVHA  
Leanne Miles, DVHA

Audra Puodziukas, ACPHS Intern  
Nancy Hogue, RPh, DVHA

**Guests:**

Rick Angeli, Merck  
John Mastrianni, Astellas  
Olivia Lee, Abbvie  
Deb Sabens, Abbvie

James Kokoszyna, Allergan  
Michael Masamitsu, Amgen  
Brian Denton, Pfizer  
Rita Baglini, APS Healthcare

Danielle Moon, Merck  
Wendy Pollinger, Eli Lilly  
Mike Toms, Abbvie  
Scott Ebersol, Merck

Joseph Lasek, MD, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. at the DUR Board meeting site in Williston.

**1. Executive Session:**

- An executive session was held from 6:00 until 6:30 p.m. to discuss Medicaid OBRA'90/Supplemental Rebates and Agreements as provided by 33 VSA § 1998(f)(2).

**2. Introductions and Approval of DUR Board Minutes:**

- Introductions were made around the table.
- The February, 2013 meeting minutes were accepted as printed.

*Public Comment:* No public comment.

**3. DVHA Pharmacy Administration Updates: Nancy Hogue, PharmD, DVHA**

- DVHA is currently accepting applications for a Chief Medical Officer and negotiations are underway for the position of Medical Director.
- Leanne Miles, Program Integrity Unit, DVHA, discussed activities being done related to Fraud, Waste, and Abuse.

#### 4. **Medical Director Update:**

- None this meeting.

#### 5. **Follow-up items from Previous Meeting:** *Diane Neal, RPh, Catamaran*

- **Methadone for Chronic Pain:** A review of the literature, including clinical guidelines, as it relates to methadone use in pain was discussed. There is concern that methadone is difficult to dose and that patients may be started on too high of an initial dose or increased to very high maximum doses.

*Public Comment:* Dr. John Brooklyn provided insight to the prescribing of methadone at his practice.

**Board Decision:** No decisions were made at the meeting. It was discussed that starting doses be limited to 30 mg/day. The topic will be further discussed.

- **Suboxone<sup>®</sup> Tablet to Film Transition:** The letter sent to prescribers describing the need to transition patients from Suboxone<sup>®</sup> tablets to Suboxone<sup>®</sup> film (if no prior history of Suboxone<sup>®</sup> film trial) was discussed.

*Public Comment:* No public comment.

**Board Decision:** None needed.

#### 6. **RetroDur/Prior Authorization Quality Assurance Analysis:** *Diane Neal, RPh, Catamaran* (Public comment prior to Board action)

- **Benzodiazepines:** A retrospective drug utilization prepared by Quynh Anh Mui and Audra Puodziukas, Pharmacy Interns from Albany College of Pharmacy Colchester Campus was given. The presentation focused on usage of benzodiazepines in DVHA members. A recommendation was made to establish quantity limits for the medications in this category and to move alprazolam and alprazolam ER to prior authorization required status.

*Public Comment:* No public comment.

**Board Decision:** The Board unanimously approved a change to the recommended quantity limits for clonazepam, diazepam, and lorazepam to be 4 tablets/day and approved all other recommendations. Date of implementation is to be determined.

- **Xyrem<sup>®</sup> (sodium oxybate):** Deferred until the next meeting.

#### 7. **Clinical Update: Drug Reviews:** *Diane Neal, RPh, Catamaran* (Public comment prior to Board action)

##### **Abbreviated New Drug Reviews:**

- **Episil<sup>®</sup> (wound barrier) Mouth/Throat Protectant:** It was recommended that Episil<sup>®</sup> be added to the PDL as a preferred product.

*Public Comment:* No public comment.

**Board Decision:** The Board unanimously approved the above recommendation.

**Full New Drug Reviews:**

- Aubagio® (teriflunomide) Oral Tablet: Deferred until the next meeting.

**8. Therapeutic Drug Classes-Periodic Review: Diane Neal, RPh, Catamaran**  
(Public comment prior to Board action)

- Bone Resorption Inhibitors: It was recommended that Miacalcin® Nasal Spray move to prior authorization required status as it is no longer recommended for osteoporosis. It was also recommended that Miacalcin® Injection be added as prior authorization required for the diagnosis of Paget's Disease.

*Public Comment:* No public comment.

**Board Decision:** The Board unanimously approved the above recommendation.

- Dermatological Agents: Immunomodulators: There were no changes recommended to the current approval criteria or PDL status for this category.

*Public Comment:* No public comment.

**Board Decision:** The Board unanimously approved the above recommendation.

- Estrogens: Vaginal: There were no changes recommended to the PDL status for this category.

*Public Comment:* No public comment.

**Board Decision:** The Board unanimously approved the above recommendation.

- Gastrointestinal: Inflammatory Bowel Agents: There were no changes recommended to the current approval criteria or PDL status for this category.

*Public Comment:* No public comment.

**Board Decision:** The Board unanimously approved the above recommendation. Board members noted that Asacol® is being discontinued.

- Growth Hormones: There were no changes recommended to the current approval criteria or PDL status for this category.

*Public Comment:* No public comment.

**Board Decision:** The Board unanimously approved the above recommendation.

- Ophthalmics: Antihistamines: There were no changes recommended to the current approval criteria or PDL status for this category.

*Public Comment:* No public comment.

**Board Decision:** The Board unanimously approved the above recommendation.

- Ophthalmics: Beta Blockers: It was recommended that Betoptic-S® be moved to prior authorization required status.

*Public Comment:* No public comment.

**Board Decision:** The Board unanimously approved the above recommendation.

- Ophthalmics: Mast Cell Stabilizers: There were no changes recommended to the current approval criteria or PDL status for this category.

*Public Comment:* No public comment.

**Board Decision:** The Board unanimously approved the above recommendation.

- Ophthalmics: Miotics: There were no changes recommended to the current approval criteria or PDL status for this category.

*Public Comment:* No public comment.

**Board Decision:** The Board unanimously approved the above recommendation.

- Ophthalmics: NSAIDS: There were no changes recommended to the current approval criteria or PDL status for this category.

*Public Comment:* No public comment.

**Board Decision:** The Board unanimously approved the above recommendation.

- Ophthalmics: Prostaglandin Analogs: There were no changes recommended to the current approval criteria or PDL status for this category.

*Public Comment:* No public comment.

**Board Decision:** The Board unanimously approved the above recommendation.

## **9. New Managed Therapeutic Drug Classes:**

- None this meeting.

## **10. Review of Newly Developed/Revised Clinical Coverage Criteria and/or Preferred Products:**

*Diane Neal, RPh, Catamaran*

- Lipotropics: Miscellaneous/Combinations: Clinical criteria for Vytorin® and Zetia® were updated to follow current clinical criteria for non-preferred statins and recognize a trial of atorvastatin or Crestor® as a required step therapy.

*Public Comment:* Scott Ebersol, Merck ~ Highlighted some of the attributes of Zetia®.

**Board Decision:** The Board unanimously approved the above recommendation.

**11. General Announcements** *Diane Neal, RPh, Catamaran*

**FDA Safety Alerts**

- Azithromycin – Risk of potentially fatal heart rhythms: FDA is warning the public that azithromycin can cause abnormal changes in the electrical activity of the heart that may lead to a potentially fatal irregular heart rhythm.

*Public Comment:* No public comment.

**Board Decision:** None needed.

- Clinical Specialties Compounding Pharmacy – Recall All Lots Sterile Products: The FDA is alerting health care providers and patients of a voluntary recall of all lots of sterile products produced and distributed by Clinical Specialties Compounding Pharmacy of Augusta, GA.

*Public Comment:* No public comment.

**Board Decision:** None needed.

- Incretin Mimetic Drugs – Possible increased risk of pancreatitis and pre-cancerous findings of the pancreas: FDA is evaluating unpublished new findings by a group of academic researchers that suggest an increased risk of pancreatitis and pre-cancerous cellular changes in patients with type 2 diabetes treated with incretin mimetics.

*Public Comment:* No public comment.

**Board Decision:** None needed

- Omontys<sup>®</sup> – Serious Hypersensitivity Reactions: FDA is informing the public of a voluntary recall of all lots of Omontys<sup>®</sup> Injection to the user level as a result of new postmarketing reports regarding serious hypersensitivity reactions, including anaphylaxis, which can be life-threatening or fatal.

*Public Comment:* No public comment.

**Board Decision:** None needed

- One Touch Verio<sup>®</sup> IQ Blood Glucose Meters– Turn off at extremely high blood glucose levels: FDA is informing the public that Lifescan is voluntarily replacing all One Touch Verio<sup>®</sup> IQ Blood Glucose Meters as a result of the meter turning off at high blood glucose levels of 1024 mg/dL and above instead of displaying message “Extreme High Glucose above 600 mg/dL”.

*Public Comment:* No public comment.

**Board Decision:** None needed

**12. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**Next DUR Board Meeting**

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.\*

HP Building, DVHA Conference Room

312 Hurricane Lane, Williston, VT

(Entrance is in the rear of the building)

\* The Board meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the Board will vote to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss Medicaid OBRA'90/Supplemental Rebates and Agreements as provided by 33 VSA § 1998(f)(2). The Executive Session is closed to the public.