DUR Guide

for Pharmaceutical Industry Representatives

Oklahoma HealthCare Authority

Oklahoma SoonerCare DUR Process

Each state Medicaid program is allowed to create a structure that suits the needs of the state and their population. Oklahoma has a very specific and detailed process for drug review and placement of drugs into prior authorization programs for SoonerCare.

There are two main processes, one for drug categories and one for individual drugs:

1. For individual drugs, state law requires a 30-day notice prior to a vote by the Drug Utilization Review Board. Typically, new drugs,drugs with significant clinical considerations, ordrugs which are indicated only in very specific circumstances are reviewed individually. The standard process is to review the clinical and economic data available at one meeting, and if the DUR Board recommends a prior authorization, there will be a vote at the following meeting.

2. For establishment of therapeutic categories of drugs, the process is much longer. In order to prior authorize a new drug category with multiple tiers,there must be an economic impact presented 60 days prior to the vote. This generally comes at some point after a category review, which has been placed on the Future Business section of the previous month's agenda. At the meeting following the economic analysis, the 30-day notice is given, followed by a vote the next month.

Individual Drug Process

- First meeting: 30-day notice with clinical and economic analysis.
- Second meeting: Vote.

Establishment of a New Tiered Therapeutic Category Process

- First meeting: Appears on Future Business section.
- Second meeting: 60-day economic impact.
- Third meeting: 30-day notice of vote.
- Fourth meeting: Vote.

DUR Meeting

The Oklahoma DUR Board meets on the second Wednesday of every month at the OHCA office. If the meetings are canceled, a notice will be posted on the agency website as soon as possible.

Meetings begin at 4 p.m. and generally last 60 to 90 minutes.

Agendas are posted no later than the Friday prior to the meeting. To find the agenda on the website, go to https://oklahoma.gov/ohca/dur. The packets are posted as PDF files and are typically fairly large files. Packets are available on the website for all calendar years starting in 2004. There are annual reports available under the Additional Reports link in this same section that are not reviewed in the DUR meetings.

Public Comment Period

Each DUR Board meeting includes a time for public comment. The time will be limited to 40 minutes total for all speakers during the meeting. Each speaker will be given five minutes to speak at the public hearing. If more than eight speakers properly request to speak, time will be divided evenly. One speaker per manufacturer will be allowed.

To sign up for public comment, email a completed DUR Board testimony registration form (PHARM – 138) to DURPublicComment@okhca.org. Forms can be found at https://oklahoma.gov/ohca/rx or on the DUR page https://oklahoma.gov/ohca/dur.

DUR Board Members

DUR Board members are recommended by organizations as set in state statute. The recommending bodies are the Oklahoma State Medical Association, the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association, the Oklahoma Pharmacists Association, Oklahoma Health Care Authority and Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.

The OSMA recommends three members; the OOA recommends one member; OPhA recommends four members; PhRMA recommends one member; and OHCA is allowed to recommend one person who is neither a pharmacist nor a physician. For a current list of DUR Board members, please visit our website at https://oklahoma.gov/ohca/dur.

Supplemental Rebates

In January 2000, OHCA started the Product Based Prior Authorization Program. In 2004, as an extension of that program, OHCA began accepting supplemental rebates from manufacturers that would remove or reduce the prior authorization process for their products.

Each state has a different mechanism of setting rebates and contracting. Oklahoma is part of the Sovereign States Drug Consortium for rebate negotiations.

There are no supplemental rebate negotiations or discussions during the DUR Board process. The DUR Board is not brought into rebate discussions due to confidentiality. It is their responsibility to look at clinical and economic factors, excluding rebates, in order to evaluate the medications. It is appropriate to discuss the specifics of drug rebate contracts only with the OHCA staff member named in the documentation accompanying the contract offer. It is not appropriate to discuss rebate offers with the DUR Board members or the PMC staff at any time during the process.

Product Based Prior Authorization Program

Many states utilize a preferred drug list in their Medicaid programs. Oklahoma uses a program called Product Based Prior Authorization. This program was implemented in 2000 to address therapeutic categories for which there are generic products along with the single source branded products.

This program divides certain therapeutic categories of drugs into two or more levels called tiers. Tier 1 medications are preferred as the first step for treating a member's health condition. They are cost effective and are usually available without prior authorization. Members that do not achieve a clinical success with Tier 1 medications may qualify to obtain a Tier 2 or Tier 3 medication. Most of the PBPA categories are set up so if a member meets the step therapy criteria, their claim for the next highest tier will process without a manual PA. Alternately, a manual PA may be required so OHCA will have documentation of the step therapy or other clinical information necessary to approve the use of a Tier 2 or higher medication.

For a list of prior authorized medications, visit our website at: https://oklahoma.gov/ohca/pa.

General Drug Coverage Information

In order to be covered by Oklahoma SoonerCare, a drug must have a federal drug rebate in effect and must not be in one of the optional coverage categories for which no coverage is provided.

Oklahoma contracts with First Data Bank and receives weekly updates from them. Drugs not listed with First Data Bank will not be included in the claims processing system for Oklahoma SoonerCare.

Please email the pharmacy department at Pharmacy@okhca.org for more information.

Federal optional categories for which Oklahoma provides no coverage:

- Cough and cold.
- Fertility.
- Cosmetic.
- Weight loss or gain.
- Nutritional supplements.
- Sexual or erectile dysfunction.

Contacting OHCA Pharmacy Department Staff

The OHCA pharmacy department is divided into two sections. The drug rebate unit and the pharmacy operations unit. The pharmacy department routinely receives inquiries from manufacturer representatives about how to best work with OHCA.

For general policy or coverage questions, you will find a wealth of information on our website: https://oklahoma.gov/ohca/rx. If you cannot find the answer to your question, please send anemail to Pharmacy@okhca.org.

For questions regarding invoicing, payment tracking and dispute resolution for the drug rebate program, the drug rebate unit can be contacted by emailing inquiries to DrugRebateUnit@okhca.org.

Contacting the PMC Staff

OHCA contracts with Pharmacy Management Consultants at the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy. The pharmacists at PMC prepare drug utilization review reports for the DUR Board and communicate with prescribers and pharmacists. They also support the pharmacy help desk and the medication prior authorization unit.

Pharmacists who are preparing a drug or category review do not speak with manufacturer representatives prior to the presentation of the report. If they need access to unpublished studies or other materials, they will initiate a request.

Continuing education presentations are always welcome by the staff at PMC. Appointments are available beginning the day after the DUR meeting through the end of the month. PMC can be contacted at 405-271-9039.