The 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 a separate process for individual drugs.

For individual drugs, state law requires a 30 day notice prior to a vote by the DUR Board. Typically, new drugs, drugs with significant clinical considerations, or drugs 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.

For therapeutic categories of drugs, the process is much longer. In order to prior authorize a drug category, there must be an economic impact presented at least 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.

Public Comment Period

Each DUR Board Meeting includes a time for public comment. Speakers may choose to speak at the beginning of the meeting or may wait until their particular agenda item is being considered.

There are eight slots for public comment. Each slot is five minutes. In the past, the Chair has asked for a single representative to address one item when there are many speakers. Sign up sheets are available by 5:15 p.m. on the night of the meeting.

When you arrange to have someone come to speak to the DUR Board, please do not have them read the Package Insert.

Please respect the Board Members’ time and effort in volunteering for the Board.
Supplemental Rebates

In January 2000, OHCA started the Product Based Prior Authorization Program. As an extension of that program, in 2004 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 does not use a rebate vendor. All rebate calculations and contracting functions are done in-house by OHCA staff.

On Page 1 of this issue, the DUR Board process for therapeutic categories is outlined. There are no supplemental rebate negotiations or discussions during this process. The DUR Board is not brought into the rebate discussions. It is their responsibility to look at clinical and economic factors excluding rebate in order to tier the medications.

After the DUR Board has set the tier structure for a particular category, the OHCA Supplemental Rebates Workgroup will meet to set rebate levels for participation. After this meeting, contracts are sent to manufacturers with drug products in the category.

After these contracts arrive, it is appropriate to discuss the specifics only with the OHCA staff member named in the documentation accompanying the contract offer. It is not appropriate to discuss rebate offers with DUR Board members or COP staff at any time during the process.

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, OHCA, and PhRMA.

The OSMA recommends three members. Currently serving at their recommendation are John Muchmore, MD, Thomas Kuhls, MD, and Brent Bell, DO.

The Osteopathic Association recommends one member. Currently serving at their recommendation is Paul Preslar, DO.

OPhA recommends four pharmacists. Currently serving at their recommendation are Mark Feightner, Pharm D., James Rhymer, D.Ph., Anetta Harrell, Pharm D., and Eric Winegardener, D.Ph. as pharmacist representatives.

PhRMA recommends one member. Evie Knisely, Pharm D. is serving at this time.

OHCA is allowed to recommend one person who is neither a pharmacist nor a physician. Bruna Varalli-Claypool, PA-C, B.A. serves in that position.

Supplemental rebate contracts are handled by Kerri Wade at OHCA.

Tom Simonson is the Drug Rebate Manager and is responsible for invoicing, payment tracking, and dispute resolution for the federal program. You can contact him at: DrugRebateUnit@okhca.org.

Many states utilize a Preferred Drug List in their Medicaid programs. Oklahoma uses a program that we call Product Based Prior Authorization. This program was implemented in 2000 to address therapeutic categories for which there are generic products along with single source branded products.

The DUR Board places each drug in the category in either Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3. Tier 1 drugs do not need prior authorization. Tier 2 drugs require prior authorization or step therapy with one or more Tier 1 products. Tier 3 drugs require prior authorization or step therapy with one or more Tier 1 and/or Tier 2 products.

The next column is a list of the Tier 3 categories which are currently included in the PBPA. For the complete list, visit our website at www.okhca.org/providers/rx. Click on the Prior Authorization link.

- Angiotensin Receptor Blockers
- Direct Renin Inhibitors
- Non-sedating Antihistamines
- ADHD/Narcolepsy
- Antidepressants
- Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors
- Narcotic Analgesics
- Proton Pump Inhibitors

Please forward materials for DUR Board members to Ron Graham at the College of Pharmacy. He will make sure the members receive the materials.

There may be a charge for mailing large or bulky items.

Please forward materials for DUR Board members to Ron Graham at the College of Pharmacy. He will make sure the members receive the materials.

There may be a charge for mailing large or bulky items.
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 we provide no coverage.

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.

Federal Optional Categories for which Oklahoma provides NO coverage:
- Cough and cold
- Fertility
- Cosmetic
- Weight Loss/Gain
- Nutritional supplements

Federal Optional Categories for Which Oklahoma provides SOME coverage:
- Smoking cessation
- Benzodiazepines
- Barbiturates
- OTC’s—Family planning, Insulin, Loratadine, and some Children’s Cough and Cold.

Contacting OHCA Pharmacy Department Staff

The OHCA Pharmacy department is divided into two sections. Tom Simonson heads the Federal Drug Rebate Unit and Pharmacy Director Nancy Nesser heads up the clinical and operations teams.

The pharmacy department routinely receives inquiries from manufacturer representatives about how to best work with us. We prefer to meet with you no more than twice a year. Please ask for appointments only when you have a new product that will have a significant impact on the pharmacy program.

Durable medical equipment and diabetic supplies are not within the scope of the pharmacy department’s responsibilities. We can refer you to appropriate personnel if you have questions about these issues.

For general policy questions, you will find a wealth of information at our Web site: www.okhca.org/providers/rx. If you cannot find the answer to your question, please send an email to Pharmacy@okhca.org.

Rodney Ramsey can help you determine whether your products are covered and if there are restrictions on the coverage.

Please email us at Pharmacy@okhca.org for information.

Contacting the College of Pharmacy Staff

OHCA contracts with Pharmacy Management Consultants (PMC) 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. If you have a need to contact the staff at PMC, please contact Ron Graham.

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. Ron Graham can help you arrange a time and space for a presentation.

Contact information:
Ronald-Graham@ouhsc.edu
405-271-9039 x 47355

We prefer to meet with you no more than twice a year...when you have a new product that will have a significant impact in retail pharmacy.

Appointments are available beginning the day after the DUR meeting through the end of the month.
The Oklahoma Health Care Authority is the designated state agency responsible for the administration of the Medicaid program. The pharmacy department strives to provide our members with access to high quality pharmaceutical care. As part of this goal, we want to provide our pharmaceutical manufacturer partners with the most comprehensive information possible.

We plan to provide a web page designed especially to meet your needs. In the meantime, we will produce newsletters such as this to help you become familiar with Oklahoma’s SoonerCare pharmacy program and processes.

Check out our Web Site:
www.okhca.org/providers/rx

Mailing address for
Pharmacy Management Consultants
ORI-4403 PO Box 26901
OKC, OK 73190

DUR Meetings

The Oklahoma DUR Board meets every month on the second Wednesday at the OHCA office.

Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.

Agendas are posted on the agency Web site no later than the Friday prior to the meeting.

To find the agenda on the Web site, go to www.okhca.org/providers/rx. Under the Drug Utilization Review Board link, you will find a link to the Meeting Dates/Agenda Packets.

The packets are posted as PDF files and are typically fairly large files (3-10 MB).

Packets are available on the web site for all of calendar years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and up through the most recent 2009 packet.

There are Annual reports that are available under the Additional Reports link in this same section that are not reviewed in the DUR Meetings.

If you would like to speak at the DUR Board meeting during the public comment period, please arrive by 5:00 p.m. to sign up.

The meetings generally last from 90 minutes to three hours.

If meetings are canceled, a notice will be posted on the agency Web site as soon as possible.

If you would like to receive an email with the packet, please contact Ron Graham at Ronald-Graham@ouhsc.edu.

2009 DUR Meeting Dates

- January 14
- February 11
- March 11
- April 8
- May 13
- June 10
- July 8
- August 12
- September 9
- October 14
- November 12*
- December 9

DUR Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.