How to Engage with Medicaid Drug Utilization Boards

Rare Disease Legislative Advocates
POWERED BY THE EVERYLIFE FOUNDATION

TIP SHEET

WHAT IS A DUR BOARD?

The role of a Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board can vary by state. However, it is generally comprised of health care professionals and may include other stakeholders. The boards are responsible for evaluating and providing recommendations for the Medicaid preferred drug list. Medicaid's drug coverage program provides prescription drug benefits to individuals and families who are eligible for health benefits through the Medicaid program.

DUR Boards operate similarly to Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committees, which generally evaluate the clinical use of medications and develop policies for managing access to them. Both make drug utilization decisions for the state and terms are sometimes used interchangeably.

FUNCTIONS OF A DUR BOARD

- Determine how each drug will be covered by Medicaid.
- Educate physicians and pharmacists on issues identified through retrospective review activities.
- Create step therapy and prior authorization requirements.

WHEN PATIENTS SHOULD ENGAGE

- Leading up to the approval of a new medication
- When a medication you or your community takes is on the agenda
- If coverage policy for a medication you or your community takes could be improved

As you meet with them, board members will better understand the unique challenges faced by rare disease patients and the specific treatments required to manage these conditions. Board members can develop drug formularies that account for the needs of the rare disease community and grant rare disease patients access to desperately needed care.

TIPS FOR ENGAGING WITH DUR BOARDS

- Review meeting agendas to see what drugs will be reviewed in upcoming meetings.
- Connect with the relevant disease community to prepare a strategy for engagement.
- Review state-specific rules on when members of the public can testify and how long they have to testify.
  - This information can be found on the entities website, or in the entities' bylaws which are posted publicly on the state website.
- When applicable, provide written or in-person testimony.

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN ENGAGING WITH DUR BOARDS

- When developing a strategy, consider a balance between fact and emotion.
- Rules may differ for verbal vs. written public engagement.
- Remember that the committee members cannot be an expert on every drug or condition. That's why you are there - to be the expert on the patient experience. You can highlight things like your diagnostic journey, incurred expenses, and travel to other states for treatment.
- Cost related statistics.

MEMBERS OF DUR BOARDS

- Pharmacists (1/3)
- Physicians (at least 1/3)
- Others including:
  - Healthcare Professionals, Pharmaceutical Reps, Managed Care Organization Reps, Health Department Reps, Patients.

DRUGS ELLIGIBLE FOR REVIEW

- FDA Approved Drugs
  - This can include new drugs on the market or drugs that have been available.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- DUR Boards and P&T Committees by State