

2023  
Vol. 35  
No. 1



*The Bulletin of  
Medicaid Drug  
Utilization Review  
in Iowa*

**DUR Commission Members**

Melissa Klotz, PharmD, Chairperson ♦ Jason Kruse, DO, Vice-Chairperson  
Rhea Hartley, MD ♦ John Ellis, PharmD ♦ Holly Randleman, PharmD  
Charles Wadle, DO ♦ Jason Wilbur, MD ♦ Susan Parker, PharmD ♦ Lisa Todd, RPh

**DUR Professional Staff**

Pamela Smith, RPh, DUR Project Coordinator

**Benzodiazepine ProDUR Edits - Coming Soon**

**Initial Days' Supply Limit for Benzodiazepines**

Section 1004 of the Substance Use Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act requires State Medicaid Programs to have in place prospective safety edits (as specified by the state) and a claims review automated process (i.e., retrospective review) for concurrent use of opioids and benzodiazepines. Iowa Medicaid satisfies this requirement by having safety edits at the point of sale (POS), in the form of a soft edit, in place to notify the pharmacy of opioids and benzodiazepines prescribed concurrently, as well as conducting a retrospective claims review for concurrent opioid plus benzodiazepines. The DUR Commission discussed the concurrent use of opioids and benzodiazepines over the course of several meetings and made a recommendation to implement a 7-day initial limit on all benzodiazepines for new users. The ProDUR point-of-sale (POS) edit would limit to an initial 7 days' supply for a benzodiazepine if the requested benzodiazepine is not found in the member's pharmacy claims in the preceding 90 days. Benzodiazepines excluded from this edit include nasal and rectal diazepam, nasal midazolam and clobazam. Prior authorization would be required for an initial days' supply greater than the 7-day allowance. The Commission will develop PA criteria for requests exceeding the initial limit.

**ProDUR Cumulative Quantity Limit for Oral Benzodiazepines**

In September 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) required a *Boxed Warning* to be added to the label for benzodiazepines, describing the potential for abuse, addiction, physical dependence, and withdrawal reactions. The DUR reviewed utilization data for select benzodiazepines (alprazolam, clonazepam, diazepam, and lorazepam) and also reviewed the Iowa Medicaid benzodiazepine quantity limits. The DUR Commission made a recommendation to implement a cumulative quantity limit of 4 units per day across the benzodiazepine class for solid oral dosage forms. The quantity limit chart will be updated to include the following statement: *Benzodiazepines are subject to a cumulative quantity limit of 4 units per day, unless otherwise indicated on the chart.* Quantity limits can be found at [www.iowamedicaidpdl.com](http://www.iowamedicaidpdl.com) under the Billing/Quantity Limits link.

## Outgoing Members of the DUR Commission

Brett Faine, Pharm.D recently completed a twelve-year term of service with the Iowa Drug Utilization Review Commission. Dr. Faine served on the Commission from July 2010 through June of 2022.

Kellen Ludvigson, Pharm.D. recently completed ten years of service with the Iowa Drug Utilization Review Commission. Dr. Ludvigson served on the Commission from July 2012 through June 2022.

The Commission and the Department of Health and Human Services would like to thank Dr. Faine and Dr. Ludvigson for their contributions and dedication to the Commission and the members of Iowa Medicaid.

## Incoming Members of the DUR Commission

The Iowa Medicaid Drug Utilization Review Commission recently welcomed two new members.

Rhea Hartley, M.D. is the Chief Medical Officer at Community Health Centers of Southeast Iowa in West Burlington, Iowa. She received her Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 2003 and has a Master of Science in Health Care Administration from Oklahoma State University. Dr. Hartley was appointed to the DUR Commission in July 2022; her first term will expire in June 2026.

Holly Randleman, Pharm.D. is currently an Emergency Medicine Clinical Staff Pharmacist at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Drake University in 2007. She served on the Iowa Medicaid Pharmaceuticals and Therapeutics Committee from 2013 to 2020. Dr. Randleman was appointed to the DUR Commission in July 2022; her first term will expire in June 2026.

## DUR Public Comment

Iowa Medicaid Drug Utilization Review Commission meetings are open to the public. To assure public input into the DUR process, the agenda and meeting materials are posted on the DUR website, [www.iadur.org](http://www.iadur.org), prior to the meeting and public comment can be submitted in writing to [info@iadur.org](mailto:info@iadur.org) or presented at the meeting. Anyone wishing to provide public comment must complete a Conflict of Interest disclosure. The complete public comment policy can be found on the DUR website.

Parties interested in the activities of the Iowa Medicaid DUR Commission can request to receive notification emails regarding the posting of the agenda and meeting materials on the website. To receive notification emails, please send an email with your contact information to [info@iadur.org](mailto:info@iadur.org) with subscribe to DUR meeting notifications in the subject line.

**Medicaid Statistics for Prescription Claims  
September 2022 through November 2022**

	<b>FFS</b>	<b>Amerigroup</b>	<b>Iowa Total Care</b>
<b># Paid Claims</b>	21,450	1,083,320	835,803
<b>Total \$ Paid</b>	\$2,584,295	\$121,126,342	\$91,554,504.95
<b>Unique Users</b>	3,850	180,883	143,112
<b>Avg Cost/Rx</b>	\$120.48	\$111.81	\$109.54
<b>Top 5 Therapeutic Class by Prescription Count</b> Therapeutic class taxonomy differs among each plan	ANTIDEPRESSANTS - SELECTED SSRI'S	ANTIDEPRESSANTS	ANTIDEPRESSANTS
	ANTICONVULSANTS	ANTIASTHMATIC AND BRONCHODILATOR AGENTS	ANTIASTHMATIC AND BRONCHODILATOR AGENTS
	ANTIPSYCHOTICS - ATYPICALS	ANTICONVULSANTS	ANTICONVULSANTS
	ANTIHYPERTENSIVES - CENTRAL	ADHD/ANTI-NARCOLEPSY	ADHD/ANTI-NARCOLEPSY
	ANTIASTHMATIC - BETA - ADRENERGICS	ANTIPSYCHOTICS/ANTI MANIC AGENTS	ANTIHYPERTENSIVES
<b>Top 5 Therapeutic Class by Paid Amount</b> (pre-rebate) Therapeutic class taxonomy differs among each plan	ANTI-INFLAMMATORIES, NON-NSAID	ANTIDIABETICS	ANTIDIABETICS
	ANTIPSYCHOTICS - ATYPICALS	ANTIPSYCHOTICS/ANTI MANIC AGENTS	ANTIPSYCHOTICS/ANTIMANIC AGENTS
	ANTICONVULSANTS	ANALGESICS - ANTI-INFLAMMATORY	ANALGESICS - ANTI-INFLAMMATORY
	ANTINEOPLASTICS - PROTEIN-TYROSINE KINASE INHIBITORS	DERMATOLOGICALS	ANTIASTHMATIC AND BRONCHODILATOR AGENTS
	MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY AGENTS	ANTIASTHMATIC AND BRONCHODILATOR AGENTS	DERMATOLOGICALS
<b>Top 5 Drugs by Prescription Count</b>	TRAZODONE	AMOXICILLIN	AMOXICILLIN
	CLONIDINE	SERTRALINE	SERTRALINE
	SERTRALINE	OMEPRAZOLE	OMEPRAZOLE
	ESCITALOPRAM	TRAZODONE	TRAZODONE
	OMEPRAZOLE	ESCITALOPRAM	ATORVASTATIN
<b>Top 5 Drugs by Paid Amount</b> (pre-rebate)	HUMIRA PEN	HUMIRA(CF) PEN	HUMIRA PEN
	EVRYSDI	TRULICITY	TRULICITY
	BIKTARVY	VYVANSE	VRAYLAR
	VIJOICE	VRAYLAR	VYVANSE
	VYVANSE	LATUDA	BIKTARVY