

Green Mountain Care Board
Prescription Drug Technical Advisory Group
April 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Attendance (Group Members and GMCB)

Nate Awrich, Director, Pharmacy Supply Chain, UVMHN
Debbi Barber, R. Ph, VP of Managed Care Contracting & Payor Relations, Kinney Drugs
Emily Brown, Director of Rates and Forms, DFR
Jordan Estey, Leader, Government Affairs, MVP Health Care
Devon Green, Vice President of Government Relations, VAHHS
Georgia Maheras, Vice President of Policy and Strategy, Bi-State Primary Care Association
Jeff Hochberg, Director, Smilin Steve Pharmacy Group & President of Vermont Retail Druggists
Nancy Hogue, Pharm. D., Director of Pharmacy Services, DVHA
Jim Hopsicker, Sr. Leader, Health and Pharmacracy Management, MVP Health Care
Brian Murphy, Director of Pharmacy & Vendor Management, BCBSVT
Sara Teachout, Corporate Director, Government and Media Relations, BCBSVT
Robin Lunge, Board Member, GMCB
Kevin Mullin, Chair, GMCB
Lindsay Kill, Healthcare Data & Statistical Analyst, GMCB
Christina McLaughlin, Health Policy Analyst, GMCB

Future Meeting Planning

The members decided to create two subgroups moving forward, one focusing on out-of-pocket costs/affordability and another focusing on PBM regulation, to further the policy discussions more quickly. Each subgroup has a designated point person and plans to meet during the scheduled meeting times as needed. Meeting updates will be posted to the GMCB Prescription Drug Technical Advisory Group page [here](#).

Subgroup Data Update & Discussion

Brian Murphy, Jim Hopsicker, and Nancy Hogue presented asthma inhaler data, including information on the average plan cost and average member cost per prescription. Click [here](#) to view the related materials. It was noted there was a discrepancy in cost-sharing depending on the insurance plan. Rebates were not calculated into this since they come in later. Nancy said it would be interesting to focus on high-cost specialty drugs when doing this exercise to see how out-of-pocket costs change.

Jeff Hochberg shared that he reached out to 3 Axis Advisors to ask how other states have gone about analyzing drug costs and where reform is needed. It is a challenge to get the data and recommended looking into what data the state has currently. Jeff recommended looking into what we are missing to make a comparison. Data collection will be further discussed in the PBM subgroup. When discussing how to address high-cost drugs, Brian Murphy said inflammatory drugs are the most expensive of the specialty drugs to treat Chron's, arthritis, and more. These prescriptions cause increases in cost-sharing and monthly premiums for patients. Nate Awrich said his data shows utilization is what is driving costs up, not inflation. Jeff Hochberg wondered if we are maximizing savings to Vermonters and would like to gather data to answer that. The 3 Axis Florida Medicaid Pharmacy Study will be shared with the group.

Public Comment

Kaili Kuiper, HCA