Alaska Medical Assistance DUR Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 21st, 2025

Meeting was held telephonically and via Microsoft Teams Webinar 1:00 PM.

Drug Utilization Review Committee Attendees

Members Present	Non-Members Present
Charles Semling, PharmD (DOH)	Ryan Ruggles, PharmD, MSHI (Prime Therapeutics)
Matt Parrott, PharmD (DOH)	Nina Huynh, PharmD, BCPS (Prime Therapeutics)
Claudia Phillips, MD	Pam Pentin, MD (UW Medicine)
Robert Carlson, MD	
Valarie Bixler, PharmD	
Keri McCutcheon, RPh	Members Absent
Anna Brecheisen, PharmD	Charles Ryan, MD

Call to order at 1:00 PM.

Matt Parrott started the meeting and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Review of minutes from September 2025

Matt Parrott reviewed the minutes from September 2025, and there were no comments for change. Keri McCutcheon moved to approve and there was no opposition.

Overview of Medicaid Prescription and Cost Trends

Matt Parrott pointed out that total amount paid had decreased from the same number last year. The claims per user per month increased slightly. The claim count per user per month remained steady. The trend charts are remaining pretty steady and it was pointed out that the scale does not start at zero, so there is less volatility than it appears on the chart.

Top 10 therapeutic categories were shown, and it was mentioned that one thing that is different from our state to other states is that Alaska tends to spend less on antineoplastics than other states. The miscellaneous category is the top category by cost. This class contains many smaller drug classes and some of which can contain some expensive items. The top 10 therapeutic category list by claim count remains very consistent from meeting to meeting.

Top 25 reports were shown to the committee. It was noted that the top 25 by prescription count is very consistent from meeting to meeting, and Matt Parrott noted that claim count of Ozempic compares to other commonly used generic agents. Ozempic has also retained the top rank for the top 25 products by pharmacy

reimbursement. Additionally, it was noted that this quarter had a lot of hemophilia products dispensed and that influenced the top 10 therapeutic categories.

Prospective Drug Utilization Review/Clinical Topic Areas

New Prescription Medications (Interim PA List – 6 month review)

New items proposed for inclusion on the interim PA list were presented to the committee.
Claudia Phillips moved to approve the additions to the drug list.
Robert Carlson seconded.
No committee opposition.

New Prior Authorizations, Quantity Limits, Edits

Dawnzera criteria was presented to the committee.
Claudia Phillips moved to approve.
Anna Brecheisen seconded.
No committee opposition.

Vykat XR criteria was presented to the committee.
Claudia Phillips moved to approve.
Anna Brecheisen seconded.
No committee opposition.

Updated Bimzelx criteria was presented to the committee.
It was noted that the only change was the addition of the criteria surrounding its new indication.
Claudia Phillips moved to approve.
Anna Brecheisen seconded.
No committee opposition.

Updated Kerendia criteria was presented to the committee.
Keri McCutcheon moved to approve.
Claudia Phillips seconded.
No committee opposition.

Daliresp criteria was presented to the committee for retirement.
Claudia Phillips moved to accept the retirement of the criteria.
Keri McCutcheon seconded.
No committee opposition.

Opioid tables were reviewed with the committee. It was commented that the raw numbers appear to decrease over time, but the per 1,000 members is quite consistent. The state consistently maintains lower total MME patient counts rather than patients using higher MME. The number of patients on Opioid and benzodiazepine combinations for members over 90mg MME remains quite low. In the top 20 opioids by utilization, it was noted that stronger agents have lower utilization. It was pointed out that only ~17 members have an average daily MME that is higher than the current AK limit. This has been a big shift from the start of the MME program and

the implementation of the MME limits. The success of the new start edits was also briefly highlighted for the committee.

Dr. Pentin, a guest presenter from UW Medicine, joined and gave a presentation on chronic pain management with buprenorphine. The benefits of buprenorphine therapy was compared to other opioids and its safety in comparison to other opioids was highlighted. Cost was briefly covered for different formulations of buprenorphine which highlighted the price decrease from when it first became available. Examples of cross tapering an opioid and buprenorphine was described. A couple of case reports were shared with the committee, and the advantages of buprenorphine were highlighted in each of these cases. The update from the patient was made clear that the patients were satisfied with the buprenorphine therapy compared to the opioid therapy. The UW Telepain meeting was mentioned as a free resource for all Alaska providers. Dr. Pentin encouraged the meeting and phone numbers use and encouraged committee members to share the information with other providers.

FDA Label Changes/FAERS Reports

There were no FDA Safety Communications.

The FAERS report was shared with the committee, and the 6 items that had actions by the FDA were highlighted for the committee. There were warnings of acute hepatic failure for Briumvi and Kesimpta. Crysvita had a risk of hypercalcemia. Nurtec ODT, Zavzpret, Vizamyl all had new safety risks associated with anaphylactic reaction. The rest of the items were still shown, but it was noted that the FDA is still evaluating the need for action.

Miscellaneous DUR Items

Children on psychotropics were discussed with the committee. It was noted that these patients gravitate toward ADHD type medications, and that OCS makes up a small percentage of patients in each category of monitored patients. The theme across these graphs is that the numbers and combinations are very consistent from meeting to meeting and over time. It is also noted that the small numbers of patients that are consistently on each combination make it appear as though the combination therapies are individualized for each patient. Matt Parrott also informed the committee that the state does have a contract for secondary level review when appropriate for these patients.

Adults on antipsychotic medications were presented to the committee. It was commented on that we are monitoring controls and antipsychotic use for this meeting. Matt Parrott commented that looking at these can be helpful even if there does not appear to be any signal. Many control agents are what we would expect to see in patients utilizing antipsychotics. The difference in combinations of both antipsychotics and the controls that the members utilized were shown to the committee. Then a combination of both the antipsychotic and the control was shown if there were at least 3 patients on the combo. This left few patients which demonstrated individualized therapy.

End of Public Meeting

Adjournment 3:14 p.m.

Next meeting date is January 16th, 2026.