



Arizona Association of Health Plans

Introduction

Most therapeutic categories on the MRPDL require coverage of most, if not all, medications in the therapeutic class. As pharmacy directors, our job is to ensure our members are treated with clinically appropriate, cost effective medications. When we find a medication that is therapeutically equivalent to another product but has a lower ingredient cost, then we will drive our members to utilize the most cost effective product. However, when we are required to allow members access to the majority of medications in a therapeutic class, this process becomes much more difficult. We are requesting a standardized process that provides flexibility and transparency when AHCCCS considers what medications to add or remove from the MRPDL.

Please review the following examples that demonstrate our concerns.

Narcotic Cough Preparations

The narcotic cough preparations all have a quantity limit of 480mL which the health plans feel is a safety issue. We recommend a lower limit of 240mL on cough preparations containing codeine or hydrocodone.

Alprazolam

All benzodiazepines have a quantity limit of 120 tablets per month, but there is no consideration for the various strengths available. Alprazolam is available in a 2mg tablet, and the recommended maximum safety dosage for is 4mg. The health plans would like the ability to monitor higher doses, which is not possible when members are allowed to exceed safety limits without restriction.

In addition, several benzodiazepines are available in extended release dosage forms, and it is not clear on the MRPDL if those are required to be covered. The extended release dosages typically do not provide any clinical advantage and tend to cost more than non-extended release dosage forms.

Here are some examples of other drug classes and our recommendations:

Proton Pump Inhibitors

Drug	Cost	340b Price
Pantoprazole 40mg	\$34.19/30 tablets	penny priced
Lansoprazole 30mg	no claims	penny priced
Omeprazole 20mg	\$7.87/30 tablets	penny priced

Recommendation is to remove Pantoprazole from the MRPDL.

Asthma/COPD Agents

Drug	Cost	340b Price
Corticosteroid Inhalers		
Qvar 80mcg	\$192.76	n/a
Flovent 110mcg	\$207.23	\$35.22
Asmanext Twisthaler	\$211.03	\$84.67
Combination Inhalers		
Symbicort	\$295.33	\$61.59
Advair HFA	\$333.09	\$84.40
Advair Diskus	\$335.08	\$50.88
Dulera	\$264.69	\$88.18

Product

Anticholinergic Inhalers

Tudorza	\$290.40	\$153.85
Spiriva	\$339.36	\$114.51
Atrovent HFA	\$281.39	\$14.98

Recommendation would be to limit the MRPDL to one preferred agent in each category.

PAH Agents

Drug	Cost	340b Price
Letairis 10mg	\$7361.57/30 tablets	\$2,738.14
Tracleer	n/a	\$1,243.47
Sildenafil 20mg	\$1505.08/90 tablets	\$12.38
Adcirca 20mg	\$2507.00/60 tablets	\$239.10

Recommendation would be to make Sildenafil the preferred agent on the MRPDL and remove the other agents.

Gout Agents

Drug	Cost	340b Price
Allopurinol 300mg	\$10.22/30 tablets	penny priced
Uloric	\$258.17/30 tablets	\$88.74
Colcrys	\$178.16/30 tablets	\$111.89

Recommendation would be to remove Uloric from the MRPDL and remove or place a quantity limit on Colcrys.

ARBs

Drug	Cost	340b Price
Losartan 50mg	\$23.70/30 tablets	Penny priced
Benicar 20mg	\$198.03/30 tablets	Penny priced
Valsartan 160mg	\$13.39/30 tablets	Penny priced

Recommendation would be to remove Benicar (all strengths) from the MRPDL.

Miscellaneous Agents

Drug	Cost	340b Price
Cipro-HC Otic	\$161.98	penny priced
Ciprodex Otic	\$238.15	\$47.13

Recommendation would be to remove Ciprodex Otic from the MRPDL.

Lidocaine Ointment 5%	\$170.42	\$150.55
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Recommendation is to remove lidocaine ointment from the MRPDL or restrict access using PA or Step Therapy edits.

Qualaquin	\$235.74/30 capsules	\$76.13
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Recommendation would be to remove Qualaquin from the MRPDL or restrict its use only for the treatment of Malaria.

Nystatin/Triamcinolone Crm	\$194.48/ 60 grams	\$84.60
Nystatin Crm	n/a	\$7.80
Triamcinolone Crm	n/a	\$1.80

Recommendation would be to remove Nystatin/Triamcinolone combination (all preparations) from the MRPDL.

Growth Hormone Agents

Drug Label Name	Rxs	Days Supply	Quantity	Total AWP	AWP per RX	Ingredient Cost
GENOTROPIN CAR 12MG	18	448	55	\$ 76,316.90	\$ 1,387.58	\$ 64,113.83
GENOTROPIN CAR 5MG	10	288	56	\$ 32,376.40	\$ 578.15	\$ 27,199.44
HUMATROPE CRT 12MG KIT	10	286	20	\$ 27,668.20	\$ 1,383.41	\$ 23,244.03
HUMATROPE CRT 6MG KIT	3	90	9	\$ 6,225.30	\$ 691.70	\$ 5,229.87
NORDITROPIN PEN 10/1.5ML	11	3,290	690	\$ 525,835.20	\$ 762.08	\$ 441,721.62
NORDITROPIN PEN 15/1.5ML	11	2,867	509	\$ 581,276.52	\$ 1,143.12	\$ 488,309.55
NORDITROPIN PEN 30MG/3FLEX	3	90	27	\$ 30,864.24	\$ 1,143.12	\$ 25,929.06
NORDITROPIN PEN 5/1.5ML	33	875	153	\$ 58,299.12	\$ 381.04	\$ 48,967.81
NUTROPIN AQ CAR 10MG/2ML	12	360	266	\$ 154,955.64	\$ 582.54	\$ 129,686.20
NUTROPIN AQ INJ NUSPIN 5	4	100	16	\$ 4,660.32	\$ 291.27	\$ 3,915.12
NUTROPIN AQ PEN NUSPIN10	18	516	142	\$ 82,720.68	\$ 582.54	\$ 69,460.18
NUTROPIN AQ PEN NUSPIN20	26	692	132	\$ 153,790.56	\$ 1,165.08	\$ 129,199.42
SEROSTIM INJ 4MG	6	168	168	\$ 54,448.08	\$ 324.10	\$ 45,518.58

Recommendation is to allow health plans to select one growth hormone to cover as the preferred agent.