



Improving Outcomes, Controlling Costs

4301 W. Markham, #522-9
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205
501-526-4200
501-526-4188 (fax)
1-866-250-2518 (toll free)

To: Pamela Ford, PD, MBA

From: Mark Helm, MD, MBA

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Subject: Interim Report on ADD/ADHD Preferred Drug List Prior Authorization Activity

The ADD/ADHD drug class Preferred Drug List (PDL) became effective in July 2007. Since that time, the UAMS PDL call center has been responsible for all prior authorization (PA) review and appeals. This report summarizes data on PA requests since that time.

In June and July we identified several hundred patients qualifying for a PA for a non-preferred medication. We granted these prior to any MD office request. This created a relatively higher PA volume in July and part of August. However, since the beginning of the school year, we have noted a slow but steady decline in PA requests for non-preferred ADD/ADHD medications. This may reflect provider familiarity with the guidelines used to review requests for non-preferred ADD/ADHD medications.

The PA Call Center pharmacists review all PA requests for non-preferred medications, and for stimulant treatment of patients under age 5 years. The pharmacists help physicians and office staff understand current national treatment guidelines, DRC recommendations, and most importantly the history of each patient's medication use as revealed through the Medicaid pharmacy payment history. Call duration and wait times continue to be brief, despite the significant increase in call center volume.

The overall number of ADD/ADHD PA requests and approval rates are as follows:

| Month | PAs Handled | Approval Percent |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| July | 787 | 82% |
| August | 1087 | 74% |
| September | 787 | 73% |
| October | 710 | 75% |
| November | 559 | 78% |

This category of medications is currently generates the highest volume of calls among the categories covered by the PDL. This pattern has been seen with other drug classes in the early months after the effective date.

There were almost 560 ADD/ADHD PA requests in November. For comparison, the second highest drug category call volume was for antihistamines. There were 223 requests for a non-preferred antihistamine. Seventy percent of these less-sedating antihistamine requests were granted. Additionally, the PA Call Center handled 193 requests for SSRI/SNRI antidepressants with a 76% approval rate in November. No other drug category handled by the PDL PA Call Center had more than 65 PA calls in the month.

Three compounds are not included on the PDL, and deserve specific mention:

- Atomoxetine, marketed as Strattera, is a non-stimulant option for treatment. Data for Strattera show that this agent can be useful in specific groups of patients. However, national treatment guidelines (and the PDL) favor trials with stimulant medications as first line treatment.
- Dextroamphetamine is the prototypical stimulant medication. Long available in inexpensive short-acting and extended release generic formulations; this compound was largely displaced by the Adderal (mixed amphetamine salt) formulations. Data on this compound was included in the Drug Review Committee review.
- Lisdexamfetamine, marketed as Vyvanse, is the newest and least well-known ADD/ADHD medication. This product is actually a biochemical modification of dextroamphetamine, and the activity of the product is due to conversion back into this parent compound. It is currently only approved for patients aged 6 to 12 years, and little data are available on the long-term safety and effectiveness of the product. There is essentially no published information comparing this agent to any other active treatment. This compound was not reviewed by the DRC.

The following table shows trends of PA requests and approval rates for these “non-preferred” compounds.

| Month | Strattera (atomoxetine) | | Vyvanse (lisdexamfetamine) | | Dexedrine (dextroamphetamine) | |
|-----------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| | Requests | Approval Rate | Requests | Approval Rate | Requests | Approval Rate |
| July | 592 | 88% | 21 | 0% | 16 | 81% |
| August | 641 | 79% | 44 | 11% | 30 | 93% |
| September | 452 | 80% | 62 | 8% | 39 | 92% |
| October | 382 | 82% | 63 | 22% | 43 | 91% |
| November | 289 | 85% | 45 | 27% | 40 | 88% |