

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



**CATHY BETTS**  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

**JOSEPH CAMPOS II**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
*KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA*  
Med-QUEST Division  
P.O. Box 700190  
Kapolei, Hawai'i 96709-0190

**TRISTA SPEER**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

**MINUTES OF REMOTE MEETING**  
**Med-QUEST Drug Use Review (DUR) Board**

Date: February 14, 2024

Time: 12:00 pm

Remote Meeting Location: Zoom Meeting participation for members and the public:  
<https://medquest-hawaii-gov.zoom.us/j/89874089304?pwd=nHdDlikaW0FG02Ren1fnQFb6nO6awr.1>

In-Person Location:  
Kakuhihewa Building  
Conference Rooms 577A and 577B  
601 Kamokila Blvd., Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

**Members Present:**

Wendell Au, Vice-Chair, Pharmacist  
Miki Lei Morita, Pharmacist  
Eddie Fox, Medical Service Representative  
Kathleen T. Kang-Kaulupali, Clinical Standards Office DUR Coordinator, Pharmacist  
Dr. Curtis Toma, Clinical Standards Office Medical Director

**Members Absent:**

Dr. James Lumeng, Chair  
Reed Muraoka, Pharmacist  
Dr. Greg Yuen

**Staff present:**

Marcy Healey, Registered Nurse, Interim Clinical Standards Office Administrator  
Julie Jay, Clinical Standards Office Secretary  
Kathleen T. Kang-Kaulupali, Clinical Standards Office DUR Coordinator, Pharmacist  
Michael Mau, Information Technology Specialist  
Dr. Curtis Toma, Clinical Standards Office, Medical Director

- I. Vice-Chair Wendel Au, Pharmacist called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm and welcomed participants to the meeting. He proceeded with a roll call of DUR Board members. A quorum of 5 members present was reported by the DUR Coordinator. The Board members were informed to declare if they were not alone. Each participating Board members declared that they were alone. Other support members of the Drug Use Review Board were noted and declared that they were alone: Gary Peton, Conduent Government Healthcare, pharmacist (present) and Dr. Lynette Honbo, Conduent Government Healthcare, Medical Consultant (present).
- II. The November 29, 2023, meeting minutes were reviewed by the Board. There was no public testimony. Without further discussion, it was moved by Eddie Fox to accept the minutes as presented and the motion was seconded by Miki Morita. The motion passed unanimously with no opposition and no abstentions.
- III. Dental Program
  - a. Gary Peton shared highlights of the Dental Program paid claims data for the fourth quarter of 2023 versus the third quarter of 2023. Weekly paid claims count continued to increase since the dental program began adult coverage on January 1, 2023. A steady weekly rate is seen since the end of the third quarter. No Prior Authorization (PA) requests were received in the fourth quarter. Controlled drugs utilization increased proportionally to number of claims increase. Quantity limits on controlled drugs are no more than a three days supply. No provider or patient outlier was identified. No public testimony was shared. No motion was made.
  - b. Fluoride coverage for children 19 years of age and less from paid claims was presented by Kathleen T. Kang-Kaulupali. Fluoride toothpaste generic product use is preferred and advised as such for all phone inquiries. Review of calendar year 2019 (pre-COVID) identified 33 fluoride prescribers in 16 locations on the 5 main islands. There were 184 fluoride claims out of a total of 937 claims. Review of calendar year 2023 (post-COVID) identified a significant increase to 109 fluoride prescribers in 30 locations on the 5 main islands. There were 1,757 fluoride claims out of a total of 5,847 dental claims. 648 claims were for fluoride toothpaste (on the formulary in 2023, but not in 2019.) The dispensed days supply for drops and tablets ranged from 30-100 units. Dispensed days supply for toothpaste ranged from 1-2 units. Discussion occurred on compliance with oral fluoride use and refill reminders. Fluoride varnish application decreases the compliance issue. Paid claims can be assessed for refills and inferred patient compliance. Dental varnish application can be assessed for utilization and access. Physician application is also paid but the paid claim is outside of the FFS dental program. Fluoride and multiple vitamins with fluoride are also physician prescribed and paid outside the FFS dental program. No public testimony was shared. No motion was made.

- IV. State of Hawaii Organ and Tissue Transplant (SHOTT) Program was presented by Gary Peton. Expensive drug claims greater than \$1,000 for the fourth quarter of 2023 and the calendar year 2023 were reviewed for highlights. There were no changes in utilization or outliers within this limited population. No public testimony was shared. No motion was made.
- V. Hepatitis C drug treatments for years 2016 through 2023 was presented by Kathleen T. Kang-Kaulupali. Review of paid claims found multiple claims with appropriate monthly payment dates implying successful treatments for most claims. 0.1% of the total had greater than 3 months of treatment. 2% of the total were single claims of which patients could have been lost to care, to access to a plan, provider or pharmacy. Present were 139 unique providers in at least one major city on each major island. Calendar year 2016 had 589 claims, 2022 had 314 claims and 2023 had 110 claims. Provider Memorandum No. FFS 22-08, QI-2227, dated December 30, 2022, shared the following: Item 3) Providers should continue to work closely with patients to address any issues affecting compliance. Good compliance and completion of a treatment course is essential for eradicating Hepatitis C. However, alcohol use and substance abuse are not contraindications to “DAA” therapy. And Item 4) Patients with chronic “HCV” can be treated at any stage. There are no treatment restrictions in terms of fibrosis stage. No public testimony was shared. No motion was made.
- VI. Office of Youth Services (OYS) Program highlights for the Calendar year 2019 compared to the Calendar year 2023 were shared by Gary Peton and Kathleen T. Kang-Kaulupali. OYS is not a Medicaid program, but the Med-QUEST Division has claim processing responsibility over it. A mainland pharmacy had been the supplier for 6-7 years. A local pharmacy is now the supplier. Paid claims data for 2019 (pre-COVID) found 474 claims compared to 2023 (post-COVID) paid claims data for 586 claims. The 2023 cost of the drugs was not increased considering the market costs of drugs have increased. Past dispensing of branded acne medication (when generic was available) is no longer occurring. That primary prescriber has departed. New orthopedic and psychiatric prescribers were included in the 2023 program, as well as general care, birth control and urology. No public testimony was shared. No motion was made.
- VII. The next DUR Board Meeting is Wednesday, May 8, 2024. There was no public testimony. Without further discussion, it was moved by Eddie Fox to adjourn the meeting at 12:55 pm. The motion was seconded by Kathleen T. Kang-Kaulupali. The motion passed unanimously with no opposition and no abstentions.