

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



**RYAN YAMANE**  
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  
Clinical Standards Office  
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: May 8, 2024  
Time: 12:00 pm

Remote Meeting Location: Zoom Meeting participation for members and the public:  
<https://medquest-hawaii-gov.zoom.us/j/83887626293?pwd=biRmWyKswZlCcBuLLGZskQqCa5a9RO.1>

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

**Members Present:**

Dr. James Lumeng, Chair  
Wendell Au, Vice-Chair, Pharmacist  
Eddie Fox, Medical Service Representative  
Kathleen T. Kang-Kaulupali, Clinical Standards Office (CSO) DUR Coordinator, Pharmacist  
Miki Lei Morita, Pharmacist  
Reed Muraoka, Pharmacist  
Dr. Curtis Toma, CSO Medical Director  
Dr. Greg Yuen

**Staff present:**

Erin Gomez, CSO, Office Assistant  
Marcy Healey, Registered Nurse, Interim CSO Administrator  
Julie Jay, CSO Secretary  
Kathleen T. Kang-Kaulupali, CSO DUR Coordinator, Pharmacist  
Dr. Curtis Toma, CSO Medical Director

Public guests: Gary Peton, Dr. Lynette Honbo, ARTIA Solutions, Georgette Dzwilewski, Dawn Dynak, Ben Skoog, Lindsay Buck, and KITV4 News.

- I. Vice-Chair Wendel Au called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm and welcomed participants to the meeting. He proceeded with a roll call of DUR Board members. The Board members participating by remote video declared that they were alone. Quorum was established with 6 members present (Members Au, Fox, Kang-Kaulupali, Morita, Muraoka, and Yuen). Other guests were noted: Gary Peton, Conduent Government Healthcare, pharmacist and Dr. Lynette Honbo, Conduent Government Healthcare, Medical Consultant.
- II. The February 14, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed by the Board. (Chair Dr. Lumeng joined the meeting.) 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 Chair Dr. Lumeng. The motion passed unanimously, with no opposition and no abstentions.
- III. Dental Program
  - a. Guest Gary Peton shared highlights of the Dental Program paid claims data for the first quarter of 2024. 5,190 claims were paid at a cost less than \$150,000. One prior authorization (PA) request was received for a formulary drug; there were no denials. Controlled drugs utilization trends were similar to the last several quarters.
  - b. Member Kathleen Kang-Kaulupali presented calendar year 2023 controlled drugs utilization trends.
    - i. The lowered quantity limits were effective (from 5 down to 3-day supplies). There are no provider or patient outliers for hydrocodone and oxycodone use.
    - ii. A non-oral surgeon dental provider was selected for a post payment review for prescribing oxycodone. The findings were as follows:
      - Appropriate antibiotics with chlorhexidine claims, hydrocodone claims, oxycodone claims, and no anti-inflammatories claims.
      - One patient with multiple antibiotic claims was selected for sampling and upon further review: There was no polypharmacy, no multiple dental providers, but there were 2 months of repeat visits for the same prescription combination of antibiotic and oxycodone. There is still no access for the Med-QUEST Division (MQD) to check the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) for provider and patient control substance utilization.

Therefore, the patient dental service records and QUEST Integrated (QI)'s health plan medication profile were reviewed. The review found benzodiazepines on QI with opioids on fee-for-service (FFS) by the dental prescriber. The Board discussed that education should be provided to the dental prescriber.

- c. Fluoride coverage from paid claims for children 19 years of age and under was presented by Member Kathleen T. Kang-Kaulupali. (Member Dr. Toma joined the meeting.)
  - i. At the February 14, 2023, meeting, DUR identified fluoride claims of the covered outpatient drugs (COD) for children have increased after COVID-19 and adult dental coverage implementation. More dental providers are participating Medicaid providers prescribing fluoride for children.
  - ii. Additional analysis was requested and found that prescriptions for refilled fluoride dental claims for children 19 years of age and under for calendar year 2023 was 29% of the total 2,000 fluoride claims paid.
  - iii. Other options for fluoride are varnish (D1206) and topical application (D1208) by dentists and medical providers (i.e., pediatricians during well-child examinations, CPT 99188). The varnish and topical application do not show up as a fluoride drug being billed on pharmacy claims. Instead, the fluoride drug is bundled as a non-COD. The varnish and topical application claims were reviewed to evaluate children's access to fluoride treatment.
    - 1. Review of paid fluoride varnish and topical application claims for one week from June 1 - June 7, 2023, summary estimates:

Fluoride (Non-COD)	Submitted claims for calendar year 2023	Submitted claims for June 1-7, 2023	Rates during June 1-7, 2023	Range of rates retroactive to January 1, 2024 (implementation date to be determined)
Varnish D1206	85,800	1,800	\$23.59	\$23.59-\$24.66
Topical application D1208	22,600	400	\$21.90	\$21.90-\$24.66
Topical application CPT 99188	0	0	0	\$0.00-\$24.66

2. Review of paid fluoride drug claims for one week from June 1 - June 7, 2023 (age 19 years and under), summary estimates for comparison.

Fluoride (COD)	Number of Claims	First Fill	Refill	Age Range
Drops	4	4	0	3-8 years
Chew tabs (Fluoride alone and in multivitamins)	23	11	12	2-10 years
Toothpaste	21	19	2	9-17 years
Total	48	34	14	
% of Total		71%	29%	

- iv. Dental COD fluoride use is probably lower utilization than non-COD fluoride for children. (Age analysis is not available at this time for non-COD fluoride and medical claims of COD fluoride and multiple vitamins with fluoride for children were not accessed.) This information will be shared with Dr. Gavin Uchida, MQD CSO dental consultant.

- d. No public testimony was shared.

IV. State of Hawaii Organ and Tissue Transplant (SHOTT) Program information was presented by Guest Gary Peton. Drug claims greater than \$1,000 for the first quarter of 2024 were reviewed. Findings were as follow: There were 45 claims at a total cost under \$500,000 from specialty and hospital pharmacies and no prior authorization requests.

- a. Adcetris® had 4 claims billed at high submitted cost for reimbursement. The billed units were higher than Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved clinical dosing. Incorrect units were possibly billed. This is usually the provider’s biller’s error, not the provider’s error. The claims must be reversed and re-sent with the correct units. This will result in a recovery of payment by MQD, then MQD is required to pay back the drug rebate to the labeler for the drug. Provider’s biller outreach, provider education, and additional past payment review of prior years for this drug were discussed.
- b. Ozempic® had one claim. Member Dr. Lumeng asked if a diagnosis code is required for payment. Guest Gary Peton informed that none is required at this time.
- c. No public testimony was shared.

V. Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2023 naloxone utilization was presented by Guest Gary Peton.

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- a. Quantities reported (taken from drug rebate data) that were dispensed increased from first quarter to the third quarter, then decreased in the fourth quarter. Overall, this remains low for FFS and managed care organizations (MCOs) combined. Nasal sprays are the majority of claims, with a few claims for injectables.
  - b. Member Wendell Au shared that fentanyl overdoses are on the rise in Hawaii.
  - c. Member Kathleen Kang-Kaulupali shared that the City & County of Honolulu Ordinance 23-24 became effective January 1, 2024. This ordinance requires that specific establishments with a liquor license train managers and carry on-premises naloxone nasal spray. Information can be viewed at <https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-bfs-liq-menu/site-bfs-liq-sitearticles/54340-narcan-faq-s.html>. (NOTE: When checked in June 2024, this link was no longer available.)
  - d. No public testimony was shared.
- VI. The next DUR Board Meeting is Wednesday, August 14, 2024. For the November 2024 meeting, Member Kathleen Kang-Kaulupali requested a change of date from November 13, to either November 6 or November 20, 2024. There was no public testimony.
- VII. The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 pm.