

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



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

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

**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'ŌKELE

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

Date: November 29, 2023

Time: 12:00 pm

Remote Meeting Location: Zoom Meeting participation for members and the public:  
<https://medquest-hawaii-gov.zoom.us/j/81607066196?pwd=BLLgbOxIG6yOSzi6N8uFvuCgeyr6Fz.1>

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

**Members Present:**

Wendell Au, Vice-Chair, Pharmacist  
Dr. James Lumeng, Chair  
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:**

Reed Muraoka, Pharmacist  
Dr. Greg Yuen

**Staff present:**

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. Chair Dr. James Lumeng, called the meeting to order at 12:05pm and welcomed participants to the meeting. Chair Dr. James Lumeng, proceeded with a roll call of Board members. A quorum of 6 members present was reported by the DUR Coordinator. The Board members were informed to declare if they were not alone. All participating board members declared that they were alone. One member has no video capability. Other support members of the Drug Use Review Board were noted: Gary Peton, Conduent Government Healthcare, pharmacist (present).
- II. The August 9, 2023 meeting minutes were reviewed. 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. The November 10, 2021 meeting minutes were reviewed. 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 – presented by Gary Peton.
  - a. Gary Peton shared highlights of the Dental Program paid claims data for the third quarter of 2023 versus the second quarter of 2023. The dental program adult coverage began on January 1, 2023.
    - i. Approximately 5,200 paid claims in the third quarter of 2023 represented a continued increase over the 4,900 paid claims in second quarter in 2023. No Prior Authorization (PA) requests were received.
    - ii. In 2022, the quarterly average paid claims were 1,500 or 115 paid claims per week. Currently the average weekly paid claims is 400, about 3 times higher than the 2022 weekly average. Unique identification numbers for providers are reviewed for multiple service dates.
    - iii. Controlled drugs utilization found 16-18% of paid claims for the third quarter of 2023 compared to 18% in the second quarter of 2023. No provider outliers.
    - iv. Fluoride toothpaste generic product use is preferred and advised to phone inquiries. There is sufficient access to at least three manufacturers within one generic code numbers (GCN). Kathleen T. Kang-Kaulupali shared that a future fluoride study to improve access to children is suggested by Gavin Uchida, DDS, Medicaid dental consultant.
  - b. No public testimony was shared.
  - c. No motion was made.

- IV. State of Hawaii Organ and Tissue Transplant (SHOTT) Program - Gary Peton presented.
  - a. Gary Peton reported appropriate utilization of all paid claims for third quarter of 2023; no outliers. Dr. Lumeng shared that expenditures for injectables to treat cancer, rheumatoid arthritis and psoriasis have escalated for health plans. Miki Morita shared that a low volume of transplants occurring locally may be a factor for a stable SHOTT drug utilization and expenditure. Dr. Toma explained hospitals bill under a global fee and the chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy is therefore billed on the medical side and not seen on the pharmacy side.
  - b. Expensive drug claims greater than \$1,000: Review noted individual paid claims are under \$25,000 this quarter with typical utilization of budget.
  - c. No public testimony was shared.
  - d. No motion was made.
- V. Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022, October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023 - presented by Kathleen T. Kang-Kaulupali.
  - a. The DUR Coordinator presented the Annual DUR Calendar with Drug Utilization Review Minimum Standards for FFY 2023. These reviews are required by the Center of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and are reported on the annual DUR review for Fee-For-Service (FFS) due by June 30 of each year. It will be reported as required to CMS by June 30, 2024, as an annual DUR. Following the minimum standards shared at the August 9, 2023 DUR Board meeting, there continues to be no or minimal claims for review. Those that could be reviewed were not requiring outlier intervention, recovery or policy change.
    - i. Prospective DUR: the dental formulary controlled substance quantity limits.
    - ii. Automated retrospective claims DUR: Excessive utilization of dental controlled substances and Hepatitis C drugs.
  - b. No public testimony was shared.
  - c. No motion made.
- VI. Hepatitis C drug treatments – Kathleen T. Kang-Kaulupali and Dr. Curtis Toma.
  - a. The DUR Coordinator shared the Hepatitis C Medications estimated expenditures, days supply, and number of claims charts compiled from the MQD encounter data trends. These were similar patterns to the Drug Rebate data provided by Conduent. Drug Rebate data was viewed as a sampling until Encounter data was available. Expenditures for all Hepatitis C drugs has decreased from a high point in 2017 of \$6 million (~200 claims per quarter) to an average of \$1 million (~50 and ~75 claims per quarter) in 2021 and 2022. Dr. Toma noted the cost of individual drugs decreasing.

- b. Dr. Toma suggested requesting and reviewing the unique Medicaid identification numbers for new infections, reinfection, and treatment not completed. Miki Morita shared lack of hepatologists was an issue.
  - c. No public testimony shared.
  - d. No motion was made.
- VII. The next DUR Board meeting is Wednesday, February 14, 2024.
- VIII. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dr. James Lumeng at 12:53 p.m. Vice-Chair Wendel Au so moved; Eddie Fox seconded the motion. There was no public testimony or further discussion. The motion passed unanimously with no opposition and no abstentions.