

Alex J. Mayer
Cabinet Secretary

Cynthia Beane, MSW, LCSW
Commissioner

Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee

March 12, 2025

Location: Virtual only
Time: Executive Session 4:30pm – 5:00pm
Time: Open Session 5:00pm – 5:30pm

MINUTES

Committee Members Present:

Philip Galapon, MD FAAFP, Chair
Chris Terpening, PharmD, PhD
Charles Rohrbaugh, RPh
Krista Capehart, PharmD
Toni DiChiacchio, DNP
Michael Cheshire, DO
Scott Brown, RPh, Vice Chair
David Gloss, MD
Laura Davisson, MD

Absent:

John Bernabei, RPh (JJ)
Brian Hardman, FNP-C
Mitzi Payne, MD
Schelley Schliesser, PharmD

Office of Pharmacy Services Staff Present:

Vicki Cunningham, RPh, Director
Bill Hopkins, Operations Manager
Doug Sorvig, Data Analyst
Lori Moles, RPh, Appeals Pharmacist
Gail Goodnight, RPh, Rebate Pharmacist
Kristen Boustany, PharmD

Change Healthcare/OptumRx Staff Present:

Joseph Bergondo, PharmD
Robert Capp, MD
Paige Clayton, PharmD
Chris Dolfi, PharmD

Other Contract/State Staff Present:

Priya Shah, PharmD, DUR Coordinator
Angela Wowzuk, PharmD, RDTP Director



I. Call to Order

Philip Galapon, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

Welcome and Introductions

Philip Galapon welcomed all meeting attendees to the committee meeting. Committee members, Bureau of Medical Services staff, and Change Healthcare/OptumRx staff introduced themselves.

II. Housekeeping Items / Updates

III. Public Comments

Public comments for this meeting were only accepted in writing. Written statements were provided to State and Committee members for review prior to this meeting and are available to the public on the State's website

IV. New Business

New Drug Reviews

Analgesics, Non-Narcotic, Short Acting

ANALGESICS, NON-NARCOTIC SHORT-ACTING	
CLASS PA CRITERIA:	
Sodium Channel Blocker (Nav 1.8)	
JOURNAVX (suzetrigine)	

Dr. Roberta Capp presented a therapeutic review of the drug Journavx. Several members of the Committee made inquiries about the published clinical trials, the recommended length of treatment for acute pain, and drug interactions. The recommendation from the Optum staff was to prefer Journavx.

Philip Galapon stated his concerns regarding the clinical trials presented, since they only included treatment of post-surgical pain relief after abdominoplasty and unionectomy. There was no data regarding effectiveness for patients who have suffered broken bones or blunt trauma.

Scott Brown voiced his concern regarding the financial risk for the Medicaid program, especially if the drug is used longer than would be anticipated for acute pain.

Charlie Rohrbaugh expressed a concern that Journavx could be prescribed for patients unaware they have hepatitis and suffer further liver damage.



Krista Capehart stated her concern regarding an interaction with oral contraceptives and unintended pregnancies that could occur.

David Gloss made a motion to approve the recommendation for the new class: Analgesics, Non-Narcotic, Short Acting. The original motion was amended to add a provision that utilization data, including associated diagnoses and current procedural terminology (CPT) codes, be reported to the Committee for continual review, monitoring and oversight. Toni DiChiacchio made a motion to approve the amended motion and was seconded by Chris Terpening. All committee members were in favor and the amendment was approved.

The newly amended motion was put to a vote; and with a split in the votes, Philip Galapon held for a roll call vote of members present:

Philip Galapon - NO
Chris Terpening - YES
Charles Rohrbaugh - NO
Krista Capehart - YES
Toni DiChiacchio - YES
Michael Cheshire - YES
Scott Brown - NO
David Gloss - YES
Laura Davisson - YES

With a tally of 6 YES to 3 NO votes, the motion carried and was approved as amended.

V. Old Business

VI. Other Business

Scott Brown requested that his displeasure with Vertex be noted for working through legislative channels, instead of observing the normal process to have a product reviewed and preferred. He stated that it is not the way West Virginia P&T Committee members do their work.

VII. Next Meeting

The next P&T Committee Virtual Meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2025, from 3:30pm-5:00pm.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Committee at 5:22 PM.

