Legislative News

State Updates

Ohio Board of Pharmacy Releases Rules on Compounding - UPDATE

A recent rule issued on hazardous and non-hazardous drug compounding by the Ohio Board of Pharmacy (OBOP) has left rheumatologists with some serious concerns. In June, the OAR joined stakeholders in issuing a letter in opposition to the new rules (OAC 4729-16-04 and 4729-16-13) that included:

- Reconstitution of non-hazardous drugs to be defined as compounding
- Increased costs to providers
- Requirement that physicians who compound in-office obtain a Terminal Distributor of Dangerous Drugs License (TDDD)
- Misguided claims of unsafe in-office compounding

In response, the BOP staff has claimed that the rules have been amended by the Board and that a formal document will be distributed to the Common Sense Initiative office to be released to the public for review.

Once published, the OAR will send a notice out via e-blast directing rheumatologists to the Ohio BOP website where they can review the redrafted rule.

You can also sign up for alerts directly from the Ohio BOP for current and future issues

OHIO BOP EMAIL UPDATES

Implementing Prior Authorization

The long anticipated and hard fought effort to pass a uniformed prior authorization bill in Ohio happened back in June of this year. Now that Governor Kasich has signed the bill into law, it is important to know when which provisions will take effect. The Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) has provided a brief on the new law that makes it easy for physicians and their practices to prepare for the change in process. The prior authorization provision highlights include:

- Effective January 1, 2017:
  - Insurers must disclose to all participating providers all new prior authorization requirements at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the new requirement.
  - Enrollees of the health plan must receive basic information about which drugs and services will require prior authorization.
  - Insurers must disclose all PA rules to participating providers, including specific information or documentation that a provider must submit in order for the PA request to be considered complete.
- Effective January 1, 2018:
  - Insurers must have a web-based system through which to receive prior authorization (PA) requests.
  - Faster turnaround times for PA requests.
  - More clarity when an insurer responds to a PA request.
  - Faster turnaround times for PA appeals.

OSMA PA BRIEF

Understanding the New Medical Marijuana Law

The Ohio Medical Marijuana law will be taking effect on September 8, 2016. In preparation, it is important that physicians and their practices understand how this new law will be put into practice.

The Ohio Medical Board has been working on rules related to the Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program. Specifically, House Bill 523 (Med-Marijuana) authorizes the State Medical Board of Ohio to adopt rules for the following:

- The procedures that a physician must follow when applying for a certificate to recommend.
- The conditions that must be met to be eligible for a certificate to recommend.
- The schedule and procedures for renewing a certificate to recommend.
- The reasons for which a certificate to recommend may be suspended or revoked.
- The standards under which a certificate to recommend suspension may be lifted.
- The minimal standards of care when recommending treatment with medical marijuana.

The answers to these processes and policies can be found by visiting either the **Ohio State Medical Association** (OSMA) or the **Ohio State Medical Board's Marijuana Control Program** websites.

The OAR Needs You!

Step therapy and biosimliars legislation needs your support as the 2016 legislative session is looming closer to adjournment.

The OAR is asking all rheumatologists, their patients and friends to support **step therapy (S.B.243/H.B.443)** and **biological products (H.B.505)** by calling the targeted legislators listed below.

Hi, my name is _____ (MD, Patient, or Advocate) and I am calling to ask State (Representative/Senator) _____ to support (Senate/House Bill) __(Bill #)__ and allow for the bill to be heard in committee. Thank you for your consideration.

- Support Biological Products Bill (H.B. 505)
  - Health and Human Services Chair, Senator Shannon Jones: (614) 466-9737
  - Health and Human Services Vice-Chair, Senator Peggy Lehner: (614) 466-4538
- Support Step Therapy (S.B. 243)
  - Medicaid Committee Chair, Senator Dave Burke: (614) 466-8049

Need a refresher on exactly what the two issues entail? Visit the advocacy section on the OAR website for more detailed information on step therapy and biosimilars.

ADVOCACY INFO

Federal Updates

Medicare Part B Demo

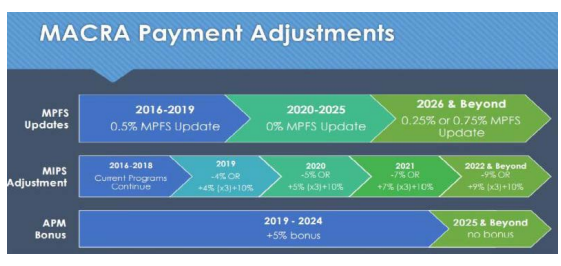
The widely opposed Medicare Part B Demo proposed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) took center stage again as the U.S. Senate Finance Committee convened for a hearing on June 28; Examining the Proposed Medicare Part B Drug Demonstration.

Dr. Patrick Conway, Acting Principal Deputy Administrator, represented CMS in providing testimony while fielding questions from committee members. Dr. Conway stated that CMS will consider and review all comments and concerns when deciding if an adjustment needs to be made before the final rule is submitted. The hearing can be re-watched by visiting the **U.S. Senate Finance Committee website**.

MACRA Comments Submitted

The Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations submitted comments to CMS on the MACRA proposed rule on June 27. Comments specifically targeted the proposed MIPS performance period, quality measure risk adjustment based on socioeconomic status, opposition to the removal of the Rheumatoid Arthritis Measures Group, Clinical Practice Improvement Activity, and the inclusion of Osteoporosis and RA as episode based measures in the resource use performance category.

Dr. Michael Schweitz, CSRO Advocacy Chair, has put together an **implementation PowerPoint** to better prepare rheumatologists for the new rule.



Ohio Association of Rheumatology
1100 E Woodfield Rd., Ste. 350
Schaumburg, IL 60173
P: (847) 517-7225 F: (847) 517-7229
info@ohiorheumatology.org