

## CHAPTER 262

AN ACT concerning membership of the Drug Utilization Review Board and amending P.L.1998, c.41.

**BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. Section 2 of P.L.1998, c.41 (C.30:4D-17.17a) is amended to read as follows:

C.30:4D-17.17a Drug Utilization Review Board.

2. a. There is established the Drug Utilization Review Board in the department to advise the department on the implementation of a drug utilization review program pursuant to P.L.1993, c.16 (C.30:4D-17.16 et seq.) and this section. The board shall establish a Senior Drug Utilization Review Committee to address the specific prescribing needs of the elderly and an AIDS/HIV Drug Utilization Review Committee to address the specific prescribing needs of persons with AIDS/HIV, in addition to such other committees as it deems necessary. It shall be the responsibility of each committee to evaluate the specific prescribing needs of its beneficiary population, and to submit recommendations to the board in regard thereto.

The board shall consist of 17 members, including the Commissioners of Human Services and Health and Senior Services or their designees, who shall serve as nonvoting ex officio members, and 15 public members. The public members shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The appointments shall be made as follows: six persons licensed and actively engaged in the practice of medicine in this State, including one who is a psychiatrist and at least two who specialize in geriatric medicine and two who specialize in AIDS/HIV care, one of whom who is a pediatric AIDS/HIV specialist, four of whom shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the Medical Society of New Jersey and two upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons; one person licensed as a physician in this State who is actively engaged in academic medicine; four persons licensed in and actively practicing or teaching pharmacy in this State, who shall be appointed from a list of pharmacists recommended by the New Jersey Pharmacists Association, the New Jersey Council of Chain Drug Stores, the Garden State Pharmacy Owners, Inc., the New Jersey Society of Hospital Pharmacists, the Academy of Consultant Pharmacists and the College of Pharmacy of Rutgers, The State University; one additional health care professional; two persons certified as advanced practice nurses in this State, who shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the New Jersey State Nurses Association; and one member to be appointed upon the recommendation of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.

Each member of the board shall have expertise in the clinically appropriate prescribing and dispensing of outpatient drugs.

b. All appointments to the board shall be made no later than the 60th day after the effective date of this act. The public members shall be appointed for two-year terms and shall serve until a successor is appointed and qualified, and are eligible for reappointment; except that of the public members first appointed, eight shall be appointed for a term of two years and five for a term of one year.

c. Vacancies in the membership of the board shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments were made but for the unexpired term only. Members of the board shall serve with compensation for the time and expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as board members, as determined by the Commissioners of Human Services and Health and Senior Services, subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury.

d. The board shall select a chairman from among the public members, who shall serve a one-year term, and a secretary. The chairman may serve consecutive terms. The board shall adopt bylaws. The board shall meet at least quarterly and may meet at other times at the call of the chairman. The board shall in all respects comply with the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-6 et seq.). No motion to take any action by the board shall be valid except upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the authorized membership of the board.

e. The duties of the board shall include the development and application of the criteria and standards to be used in retrospective and prospective drug utilization review. The criteria and standards shall be based on the compendia and developed with professional input in a consensus

fashion. There shall be provisions for timely reassessments and revisions as necessary and provisions for input by persons acting as patient advocates. The drug utilization review standards shall reflect the local practices of prescribers, in order to monitor:

- (1) therapeutic appropriateness;
- (2) overutilization or underutilization;
- (3) therapeutic duplication;
- (4) drug-disease contraindications;
- (5) drug-drug interactions;
- (6) incorrect drug dosage;
- (7) duration of drug treatment; and
- (8) clinical drug abuse or misuse.

The board shall recommend to the department criteria for denials of claims and establish standards for a medical exception process. The board shall also consider relevant information provided by interested parties outside of the board and, if appropriate, shall make revisions to the criteria and standards in a timely manner based upon this information.

f. The board, with the approval of the department, shall be responsible for the development, selection, application and assessment of interventions or remedial strategies for prescribers, pharmacists and beneficiaries that are educational and not punitive in nature to improve the quality of care, including:

- (1) Information disseminated to prescribers and pharmacists to ensure that they are aware of the duties and powers of the board;
- (2) Written, oral or electronic reminders of patient-specific or drug-specific information that are designed to ensure prescriber, pharmacist and beneficiary confidentiality, and suggested changes in the prescribing or dispensing practices designed to improve the quality of care;
- (3) The development of an educational program, using data provided through drug utilization review as a part of active and ongoing educational outreach activities to improve prescribing and dispensing practices as provided in this section. These educational outreach activities shall include accurate, balanced and timely information about drugs and their effect on a patient. If the board contracts with another entity to provide this program, that entity shall publicly disclose any financial interest or benefit that accrues to it from the products selected or used in this program;
- (4) Use of face-to-face discussion between experts in drug therapy and the prescriber or pharmacist who has been designated by the board for educational intervention;
- (5) Intensified reviews or monitoring of selected prescribers or pharmacists;
- (6) The timely evaluation of interventions to determine whether the interventions have improved the quality of care; and
- (7) The review of case profiles prior to the conducting of an intervention.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 14, 2004.