

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the WV Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee Meetings

1. **What is the general process for the Preferred Drug List (PDL)?**

Each drug is reviewed on its clinical merits relative to other medications in the same therapeutic class. Published, peer-reviewed clinical trials are the primary source of information used by the State's PDL vendor for this review. Data regarding efficacy, effectiveness, adverse effects, and tolerability is analyzed and compared to other drugs within the therapeutic class. From this analysis, the clinical staff determines an agent's superiority, equivalency, or inferiority relative to the comparator drugs.

After the clinical review, a financial analysis is performed. This analysis incorporates utilization data from the State as well as net drug costs from the manufacturers. With this data, the financial staff determines the fiscal impact of PDL status, inclusion or exclusion, of each medication.

In addition to the clinical review and financial analysis, other factors, such as existing programs within the state, are taken into account by the PDL vendor.

Incorporating all of this information, the PDL vendor recommends to the state's Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee regarding the PDL status of each medication. After reviewing and discussing these suggestions, the P&T Committee makes recommendations to the West Virginia Bureau for Medical Services (BMS) for final decisions.

The PDL does not include every covered drug or drug class. If a medication is not listed on the PDL, it may still be covered by Medicaid without being assigned a preferred or non-preferred status.

2. **Are P&T Committee meetings open to the public?**

In accordance with the West Virginia Sunshine Law, P&T Committee meetings are open to the public. This law requires that a public announcement of the meetings be made two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting date. Except for specific pricing information, proprietary information or confidential information, the records of the P&T Committee are available to the public as well.

3. **Is the pricing information confidential?**

By law, pricing information is confidential since it involves supplemental rebate data.

4. **Can manufacturers review monographs relating to their drug(s) prior to the P&T meetings?**

No. The monographs used at the P&T meetings are proprietary documents.

5. How can a pharmaceutical manufacturer, or a member of the public, present comments to the P&T Committee?

Public comments are not permissible at quarterly P&T meetings held virtually. Manufacturers may submit clinical material to the PDL vendor, Optum Rx, at least two weeks prior to the meeting to be shared with the P&T Committee for their review. Manufacturers may only submit clinical material for a drug within the therapeutic classes being reviewed at that meeting.

There will be a public comment period at the beginning of each annual in-person P&T Committee meeting. During this time, speakers will be given up to three minutes per drug topic to make a presentation to the Committee. The representative will not be permitted to ask questions of the Committee, the Bureau, or the PDL vendor during this time. Slide presentations are not permitted. Handout materials are limited to two pages (at least 20 copies) and must be given to the Bureau's secretary before the start of the meeting for distribution to the Committee members or provided to the PDL vendor at least two weeks prior to the P&T meeting. For additional information, please reference the P&T Speaker Sign-Up Process document found on the Medicaid Pharmacy [website](#).

6. How does a pharmaceutical manufacturer submit clinical material or other information for consideration by the P&T Committee?

All such material should be sent to BMS's PDL vendor, Optum Rx, at least two weeks prior to the P&T meeting by email (preferred) to Joe Bergondo. For reviews of classes or products at upcoming P&T meetings, Optum Rx will send a solicitation to their contacts at affected manufacturers approximately six to eight weeks prior to the P&T meeting date. This solicitation will contain a list of products scheduled for review and instructions for submission including a deadline.

7. Who are the points of contact at BMS and Optum Rx?

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