Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023

SENATE BILL NO. 2156
(Senators Lee, Hogan, K. Roers)
(Representatives Dobervich, M. Ruby, Weisz)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 50-24.6-02 and 50-24.6-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the drug use review board and medical assistance prior authorization.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 50-24.6-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

50-24.6-02. Drug use review board.

1. The board is established within the department for the implementation of a drug use review program.

2. The board consists of seventeen members. The pharmacy administrator of the department and the medical consultant to the department are ex officio nonvoting board members who shall provide administrative services to the board. A majority of the appointed members must be physicians and pharmacists participating in the medical assistance program. Four or more of the appointed members must have experience with a drug use review process or have participated in programs in which prior authorization is used. The appointed members of the board must be:

   a. Four physicians licensed in this state and actively engaged in the practice of medicine, one of whom is a psychiatrist, appointed by the North Dakota medical association;

   b. Two physicians licensed in this state and actively engaged in the practice of medicine, appointed by the executive director of the department;

   c. Four pharmacists licensed in this state and actively engaged in the practice of pharmacy, appointed by the North Dakota pharmaceutical association;

   d. Two pharmacists licensed in this state and actively engaged in the practice of pharmacy, appointed by the executive director of the department;

   e. One individual who represents consumer interests, appointed by the governor;

   f. One pharmacist or physician representing the brand pharmaceutical industry appointed by the pharmaceutical research and manufacturers of America; and

   g. One pharmacist or physician representing the generic pharmaceutical industry appointed by the ~~generic pharmaceutical~~ association for accessible medicines.

3. Appointed board members shall serve staggered three-year terms. An appointed member may be reappointed for a period not to exceed three 3-year terms. A vacancy on the board must be filled for the balance of the unexpired term from the appropriate board category as provided under subsection 2. The executive director of the department may replace an appointed member of the board who fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the board without advance excuse or who fails to perform the duties expected of a board member. The pharmaceutical industry representatives are nonvoting board members.

4. Voting board members shall select a ~~chairman~~presiding officer and a vice ~~chairman~~presiding officer on an annual basis from the board's voting membership. One-half or more of nonvacant voting board member positions constitutes a quorum.

5. The board shall meet ~~in person~~ at least once every three months and may meet at other times ~~by teleconference or electronically~~ at the discretion of the ~~chairman~~presiding officer. A board member is entitled to receive from the department or the department's vendor per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as determined by the department or the department's vendor, except that no compensation under this section may be paid to any board member who receives compensation or salary as a state employee or official.

6. A board member appointed under subdivisions a through d of subsection 2 is not subject to the bona fide resident of the state requirement under section 44-03-04 if the board member is providing services to residents of the state receiving medical assistance through telemedicine or telepharmacy. The affected association shall continue to recruit in-state board members for that board member position and will replace the nonresident board member once the affected association has enough appointees for all of their board member positions.

7. A board member appointed under subdivision f or subdivision g of subsection 2 is not subject to the bona fide resident of the state requirement under section 44-03-04.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 50-24.6-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

50-24.6-04. Prior authorization program.

1. The department shall develop and implement a prior authorization program that meets the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 1396r-8(d) to determine coverage of drug products when a medical assistance recipient's health care provider prescribes a drug that is identified as requiring prior authorization. Authorization must be granted for provision of the drug if:

   a. The drug not requiring prior authorization has not been effective, or with reasonable certainty is not expected to be effective, in treating the recipient's condition;

   b. The drug not requiring prior authorization causes or is reasonably expected to cause adverse or harmful reactions to the health of the recipient; or

   c. The drug is prescribed for a medically accepted use supported by a compendium or by approved product labeling unless there is a therapeutically equivalent drug that is available without prior authorization. The department shall work with the medical assistance recipient's health care provider to assure treatment can be found for diagnoses with no compendia supported medications.

2. For any drug placed on the prior authorization program, the department shall provide medical and clinical criteria, cost information, and utilization data to the drug use review board for review and consideration. The board may consider department data and information from other sources to make a decision about placement of the drug on prior authorization.

3. a. For individuals ~~twenty-one~~eighteen years of age and older, except for quantity limits that may be no less than the pharmaceutical manufacturer's package insert, brand name drugs with a generic equivalent drug for which the cost to the state postrebate is less than the brand name drugs, generic drugs with a brand name equivalent drug for which the cost to the state postrebate is less than the generic drug, or medications that are considered line extension drugs, the department may not prior authorize substantially all drugs in the following medication classes:

      (1) Antipsychotics;

(2) Antidepressants;

(3) Anticonvulsants;

(4) Antiretrovirals, for the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus;

(5) Antineoplastic agents~~, for the treatment of cancer~~; and

(6) ~~Stimulant medication used for the treatment of attention deficit disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, except an individual who prescribes this medication at a rate two times higher than the rate of the top ten prescribers excluding the top prescriber may be subject to prior authorization~~Immunosuppressants, for prophylaxis of organ transplant rejection.

b. For individuals under ~~twenty-one~~eighteen years of age, except for quantity limits that may be no less than the pharmaceutical manufacturer's package insert, brand name drugs with a generic equivalent drug for which the cost to the state postrebate is less than the brand name drugs, generic drugs with a brand name equivalent drug for which the cost to the state postrebate is less than the generic drug, or medications that are considered line extension drugs, the department may not prior authorize substantially all drugs in the following medication classes:

(1) Antipsychotics;

(2) Antidepressants;

(3) Anticonvulsants;

(4) Antiretrovirals, for the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus;

(5) Antineoplastic agents~~, for the treatment of cancer~~; and

(6) ~~Stimulant medication used for the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder~~Immunosuppressants, for prophylaxis of organ transplant rejection.

c. The restrictions of subdivision b do not apply for individuals under ~~twenty-one~~eighteen years of age, who have five or more concurrent prescriptions for psychotropic medications.

d. Prior authorization for individuals under ~~twenty-one~~eighteen years of age is required for five or more concurrent prescriptions for antipsychotics, antidepressants, anticonvulsants, benzodiazepines, mood stabilizers, sedative, hypnotics, or medications used for the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. The department shall grant authorization to exceed the limits after a prescriber requesting authorization consults with a board certified ~~pediatric~~child and adolescent psychiatrist approved by the department.

e. The restrictions of this subsection do not apply if prior authorization is required by the centers for Medicare and Medicaid services.

f. As used in this subsection, "line extension drug" means a new formulation of a drug. The term does not include an abuse-deterrent formulation of a drug.

g. As used in this subsection, "substantially all" means that all drugs and unique dosage forms in the medication classes outlined in paragraphs 1 through 6 of subdivisions a and b are expected to be covered without prior authorization, with the following exceptions:

(1) Multisource brands of the identical molecular structure;

(2) Extended release products when the immediate-release product is included;

(3) Products that have the same active ingredient or moiety; and

(4) Dosage forms that do not provide a unique route of administration.

4. The department may use contractors to collect and analyze the documentation required under this section and to facilitate the prior authorization program.

5. The department shall consult with the board in the course of adopting rules to implement the prior authorization program. The rules must:

   a. Establish policies and procedures necessary to implement the prior authorization program.

   b. Develop a process that allows prescribers to furnish documentation required to obtain approval for a drug without interfering with patient care activities.

   c. Allow the board to establish panels of physicians and pharmacists which provide expert guidance and recommendations to the board in considering specific drugs or therapeutic classes of drugs to be included in the prior authorization program.

6. The department may negotiate additional rebates from drug manufacturers to supplement the rebates required by federal law governing the medical assistance program. Additionally, the department may join a multistate supplemental drug rebate pool, and if the department negotiates additional rebates outside this pool, any other manufacturer must be allowed to match those rebates.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2156.

Senate Vote:	Yeas 46	Nays 0	Absent 1
House Vote:	Yeas 91	Nays 0	Absent 3

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____M. on _____, 2023.

Approved at _____M. on _____, 2023.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____day of _____, 2023,

at _____ o'clock _____M.

Secretary of State