

Green Mountain Care Board Prior Authorization Pilot

Senate Committee on Health & Welfare
February 8, 2017

We'll see you through.



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Pharmacy Pilot

- Meetings with Dr. Ramsey started in 2013
 - Pilot: check the impact of waiving prior authorizations
- Two drug classes: Statins (cholesterol) and Proton Pump Inhibitors (acid reflux)
 - Wanted to start with low cost categories
 - High use of generic drugs in these classes
 - Small number of prior authorizations
 - More likely prescribed by primary care physicians (PCPs)
- Focus on independent PCP practices
 - Used Blueprint practices (about 190 prescribers)

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Pharmacy Pilot (cont)

■ Participating Payers:

- VT Medicaid - all members
- BCBSVT - all exchange members
- MVP - all members except ASO clients & Medicare Advantage

■ Pilot ran from *May 2015 to May 2016*

- Quarterly check-ins to review data
- All payers agreed to track the same data points

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Pharmacy Pilot Results - Medicaid

- VT Medicaid saw their costs for non-preferred proton pump inhibitors rise
 - Q1 - 3.2% increase
 - Q2 - 10.2% increase
 - Q3 - 22.5% increase
 - Q4 - 29.7% increase
- Conversely, the control group only had a 5.3% cost increase
 - Medicaid would have seen an increase in costs of \$250K-\$350K if the pilot had been continued and expanded

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Pharmacy Pilot Results - BCBSVT & MVP

- BCBSVT had little change
 - Heaviest prescribing PCP only requests 52 prior authorizations per year from BCBSVT (aka one per week) in all drug classes
- MVP had little change
 - Only about 10 prior authorization requests per year in VT in these drug classes

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Radiology Pilot

- Different from the pharmacy pilot
- Prior authorizations were reviewed by local radiologists rather than the payers
- Involved requests for MRIs for lower back pain at Rutland and Porter hospitals
- Same payers and populations as pharmacy pilot

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Radiology Pilot Results

- Low volume - only 92 BCBSVT claims
- Similar results found between radiologists' review and payers' review
- Heavy administrative burden on the reviewers at the hospitals
 - The model was not found to be scalable

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Questions?

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