



# Pharmacy Benefits Management- Medical Advisory Panel E<sub>z</sub>-Minutes

Volume 1, Issue 2

August 2003

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## Coming Soon- CE Satellite Program!

“Clinical and Economic Impact of the VA Guidelines for Atypical Antipsychotics” featuring Drs. Steve Marder (VISN 22), Mick Weiss (VISN 19), AND Drs. Lehmann and Torrise from HQ. Mark your calendar for this exciting and informative program on the national/PBM antipsychotic guidelines. Program to be aired Oct 21<sup>st</sup> at 1-2pm EST on VA Knowledge Network Ch 1. Dial in number 1-800-767-1750, Access code 42547 for Q/A time at 2pm EST. Don't miss it!

**Greetings!** Good ol' summer time...where did it go? The PBM-MAP hopes everyone had an enjoyable summer. The PBM-MAP was hard at work during these months but still was able to enjoy those baseball games, beach trips, and those endless home improvement projects. Thanks for the comments and suggestions from the first edition of the newsletter. Keep them coming! Remember, to check the Web site at [www.vapbm.org](http://www.vapbm.org) or [vaww.pbm.med.va.gov](http://vaww.pbm.med.va.gov) for other sizzling news from the summer.

## Transitional Pharmacy Benefits Package

There is no **hotter** news this summer than the Transitional Pharmacy Benefits Package (TPB) so it receives top billing. Visit <http://www.va.gov/elig/TPB.htm> for more specific details including VA News Release, frequently asked questions, MD information and links to VA Prescribing Guidance and the Federal Register.

**Intent of program:** To relieve new VA patients of the financial burden for medication(s), while waiting to be seen by VA physician.

### Veterans eligible for this short term pharmacy benefit:

- Must be enrolled in health system prior to July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003
- Must have requested primary care appointment PRIOR to July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003
- Must be waiting for an initial primary care appt. > 30 days as of Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2003

**Date of Implementation:** September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2003

### Other reminders:

- VA's existing formulary medication will be provided under this benefit excluding the following: Controlled substances, one-time medications for acute self-limited illnesses, OTCs (except insulin and syringes), IV medications and medications that must be administered by a medical professional
- For a list of common medications available through this program, see <http://www.va.gov/elig/PDF/IB-10-168TBDDrugSum0801.pdf>
- Dates and Times (all ET) for VA TPB Satellite Rebroadcast Programs -8/15,10A ; 8/18, 5P; 8/20,11P; 8/22,1P; 8/24, 3P; 8/26, 2A; 8/28, 2:30P. View program on Channel 2.
- TPB Q & A Conference call on 8/22 from 1-3PM ET and 9/22, 1-3P ET. Dial-in number same for both calls 1-800-767-1750 Code #53211
- Summary of the Time Table for August

TIMETABLE	DATE	RESPONSIBILITY
Develop Local Letter	8/08/03	Implementation Committee
Develop call center script	8/08/03	Implementation Committee
Staff Education	8/13/03 to 9/15/03	Implementation Committee
Enter letter in computer	8/15/03	Business Office
Install VistA patches and run extract of eligible patients	8/30/03	IRM
Build Patient Eligible file with Reporting Capabilities PSO*7*145	8/30/03	VACO CIO/Local CIO
Schedule patch & Populate clinic file with appropriate info (VistA) SD*5.3*300	8/30/03	VACO CIO/Local CIO
Kernal patch XU*8*311	8/30/03	VACO CIO/Local CIO

# Medication Safety

A new feature to the newsletter will be sharing patient safety related issues. This month the patient safety message addresses the use of opioids. Be sure to visit [www.vapbm.org](http://www.vapbm.org) to review documents on criteria and dosing recommendations for various opioids. Pain is now a vital sign and the importance of treating and managing pain can not be emphasized enough but

- ACETAMINOPHEN/CODEINE
- ▲ ACETAMINOPHEN/HYDROCODONE
- ▼ ACETAMINOPHEN/OXYCODONE
- ✱ FENTANYL
- ◆ METHADONE
- ✱ MORPHINE
- ⊕ OXYCODONE

**PBM Center for Medication Safety**  
 We are proud to announce the new Center for Medication Safety, a Patient Safety Center of Inquiry, generously funded by the National Center for Patient Safety and the PBM. The Center's mission will be to research, implement, and monitor issues related to medication safety.

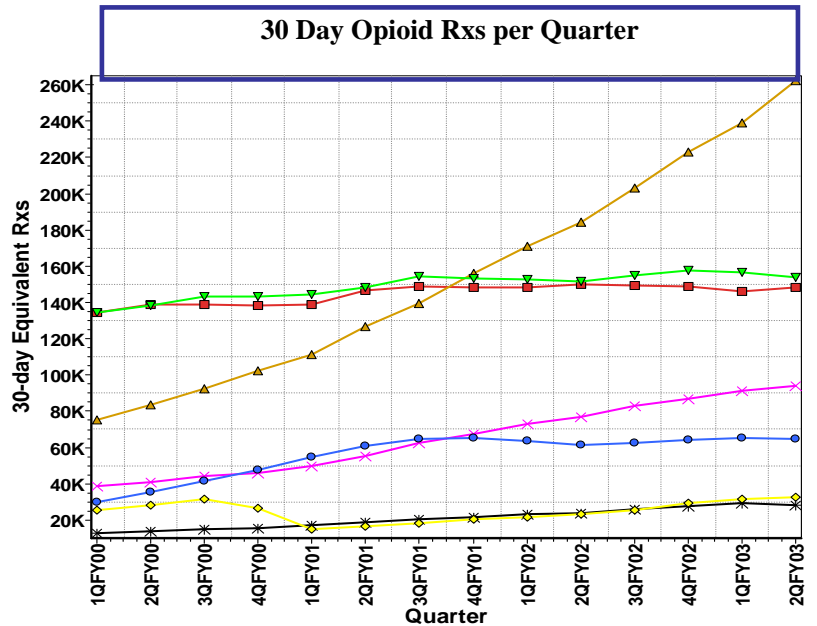
Director: Fran Cunningham, PharmD

Co-Directors:

Peter Glassman, MBBS, MSc

Chester B. Good, MD, MPH

Congratulations!



	1Q FY00	2Q FY00	3Q FY00	4Q FY00	1Q FY01	2Q FY01	3Q FY01	4Q FY01	1Q FY02	2Q FY02	3Q FY02	4Q FY02	1Q FY03	2Q FY03
APAP & CODEINE	134,359	139,037	138,768	138,531	138,903	146,768	148,620	148,522	148,548	149,773	149,291	148,735	145,989	148,339
APAP & HYDROCODONE	75,288	83,468	92,182	102,266	111,198	126,757	139,214	155,864	170,861	184,255	202,815	222,816	239,230	262,254
APAP & OXYCODONE	134,603	138,361	143,356	143,220	144,218	148,355	154,384	153,527	152,972	151,643	155,188	157,921	156,376	153,702
FENTANL	12,757	13,599	14,866	15,693	17,026	18,661	20,269	21,696	23,137	23,683	26,161	27,775	29,109	28,456
METHADONE	25,245	27,996	31,341	26,817	14,825	16,504	18,457	20,538	21,855	23,341	25,716	29,473	31,593	32,797
MORPHINE	39,018	40,907	44,321	46,184	49,933	55,513	62,347	67,689	73,321	76,678	82,849	87,049	91,436	94,152
OXYCODONE	29,924	35,505	41,798	47,879	54,852	60,979	64,718	65,231	63,673	61,523	62,683	64,219	65,379	64,512

## Recent National PBM Reviews Postings on Web site

### Criteria for Use

<http://www.vapbm.org/PBM/criteria.htm>

Cholinesterase Inhibitor  
Updated-Pharmaceutical Selection of Antiplatelet Therapy in CV Disease  
Primary Pulmonary Hypertension  
Oxycodone CR-revised

### Criteria for Nonformulary Use

<http://www.vapbm.org/PBM/criteria.htm>

Revised Buprenorphine SL Tablets

### Drug Class Reviews

<http://www.vapbm.org/PBM/reviews.htm>

Ophthalmic Prostaglandin Analogs

### Drug Monographs

<http://www.vapbm.org/PBM/drugmonograph.htm>

Desloratadine (Clarinetx®)  
Buprenorphine and Buprenorphine Naloxone SL Tablets  
Sirolimus (Rapamune®)

### Patient and/or Provider Information Letters

Zolmitriptan-Therapeutic Interchange Guidance  
[http://www.vapbm.org/tig/zolmitriptan Patient Letter1 \(provider\).pdf](http://www.vapbm.org/tig/zolmitriptan%20Patient%20Letter1%20(provider).pdf)  
Loratadine to fexofenadine switch-located on intRAnet site

## Comments and Feedback or Questions about PBM-MAP E<sub>z</sub> - Minutes?

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## New Molecular Entities Reviews

- Dutasteride (Avodar®) Not added to VA National Formulary (VANF) or VISNs formularies
- sodium oxabate (Xyrem®)- Not added to VANF or VISN Formularies
- Desloratadine (Clarinetx®) - Not added to VANF or VISN Formularies

### New Item

Buprenorphine SL Tablets for Opioid Dependence—REVISED June 2003. Reminder, not added to VANF, VISNs may add with restrictions.

## Contract Awards

Triptans-zolmitriptan—see Provider and patient letters  
Ophthalmic PG-Travoprost  
Please note: Not a National Mandated Switch. Patients who were receiving either bimatoprost (Lumigan®) or latanoprost (Tarlatan®) before August 22, 2003 will be permitted to continue to use those agents without having to complete a NF drug request.  
Non 3A4 Statin-Fluvastatin.  
Voting on status to be determined by Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Question from the field:** Where can I find documents for topics that are currently being revised? Existing documents will be replaced with an updated version. Previous document will be archived. A watermark will be inserted to identify these documents as a previous edition along with the date the document was archived. Click on [PBM Archive Criteria, Guidelines, & Reviews](#) to find those previous documents.

Updated July 2003- Adult and Adolescent HIV Treatment Guidelines

Updated May 2003- Safety and Toxicity of Individual Antiretroviral Agents in Pregnancy



AA\_071403.pdf



ST\_052303.pdf