
**Oregon Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Advisory Commission
Prescribing Practice Review Subcommittee**

Mar 22, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Contact: Drew Simpson, drew.r.simpson@state.or.us, 971-673-1033

1. Welcome

Simpson opened the meeting as the facilitator and explained the objectives for the meeting and the process for hearing comments from any public attendees. The meeting will focus on reviewing and updating the criteria used to determine which prescribers will receive letters each quarter, reviewing an updated option for peer comparison reports, and updating the subcommittee charter. If public attendees are present, they will be given time at the end of the meeting to make comments to the subcommittee.

This meeting will cover much of the same content as the last meeting when quorum was not reached so no formal decisions were able to be made. McCarthy received insight from the attending members and updated her presentation.

2. Review of subcommittee statutory charge

Simpson reviewed the scope of the statutory charges that the subcommittee must fill. These include making recommendations to OHA regarding the training and education of prescribers who prescribe high volume of opioids, high number of doses, and coprescribe opioids and benzos. The subcommittee is able to include additional measures but must consider those three.

3. Presentation of high-risk criteria trends

McCarthy presented an in-depth review of the coprescribing measure and the trends in letter recipients since the subcommittee work began.

The measure excludes buprenorphine and tramadol and only counts drugs prescribed within the same calendar month, rather than a rolling timeframe.

Looking back, there were initially approximately 200 prescribers who met the criteria and received letters. The most recent quarters are about 50 prescribers fitting the criteria. McCarthy displayed hypothetical changes to the criteria and what that would do to the number of prescribers who receive the letters. These hypotheticals include including non-benzo sedatives, increasing or decreasing the number of patients required to qualify, making the timeframe a rolling 30 day timeframe rather than calendar month. These changes depending on which are selected may increase the number of prescribers receiving letters to as many as 500.

4. Discuss criteria changes for letters

The subcommittee moved into discussing changes that should be agreed upon based on McCarthy's presentation. Hawkinson asked how many prescribers there are total in Oregon to help orient the discussion. Simpson stated it was approximately 16,000 though to fluctuates somewhat.

The subcommittee discussed whether a dose filter should be include to exclude low dose gabapentin prescribing since many patients use it for sleep and under 300 mg would not elevate risk. Currently the PDMP does not collect pregabalin so it cant be considered.

The subcommittee officially decided to expand the timeframe considered an overlap. Currently only prescription written within the same month were considered co-prescribed. Now prescriptions written within 30 days of the last day of the previous prescription are considered co-prescriptions.

The subcommittee discussed the number of patients with coprescriptions that a prescriber must have to qualify for a letter. Currently the threshold is 25 patients. All members agreed that 25 was too high but asked McCarthy to prepare additional information about the special and practice type of prescribers who are the most outlying to help the subcommittee understand this group better.

The subcommittee discussed their concerns that nervous providers would be increasingly scared by receiving letters and the subcommittee does not want to unintentionally impact those providers who are appropriately prescribing. One solution is to create two versions of the letter, one that is delivered to the high end of those who qualify (25< patients with overlapping prescriptions) and a separate less aggressive version for those with a low number of overlapping patients. Simpson will prepare those letters to be considered for future quarters.

5. Review of peer comparison reports

Simpson reviewed the current peer comparison report that the subcommittee that is available to prescriber each quarter. It is a static report which displays the providers prescribing compared to the 50th percentile and 90th percentile prescribers within their same specialty. This version has been in use since they were first implanted in 2021. There is a new version of the Bamboo standard peer comparison report which includes enhanced features that Simpson presented to the subcommittee. The updated version includes the ability to click on any risky prescribing measure and see the patients that the prescriber prescribed to that contributed to their rank in that category.

With that additional enhancement, the subcommittee supports changing to the Bamboo prepared peer comparison report over the custom report Oregon proposed. The change in the report will not cost any additional amount, the cost of the Oregon custom report is the same as the bamboo standard.

6. Housekeeping

a. New members

Simpson asked the subcommittee how they would like to handle the vacancies and low attendance from certain representatives. The subcommittee opted to find a new

representative from the two unattending or vacant positions, local public health and naturopathic. Simpson will recruit new members and work with Dr. Sidelinger.

b. Charter update

The Subcommittee renewed the charter with basic updates to dates and members.

c. Next meeting

next meeting will be selected by doodle poll and the meetings will continue on the quarterly timeframe.

7. Adjournment

With no public in attendance, the meeting way closed.