

Pharmacy

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM

SYNOPSIS

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) uses an evidence-based selection process for managing preferred drugs on the Washington Preferred Drug List (PDL) and uses pooled purchasing through the Northwest Prescription Drug Consortium to deliver high value prescription drug benefits to state-financed health care programs.

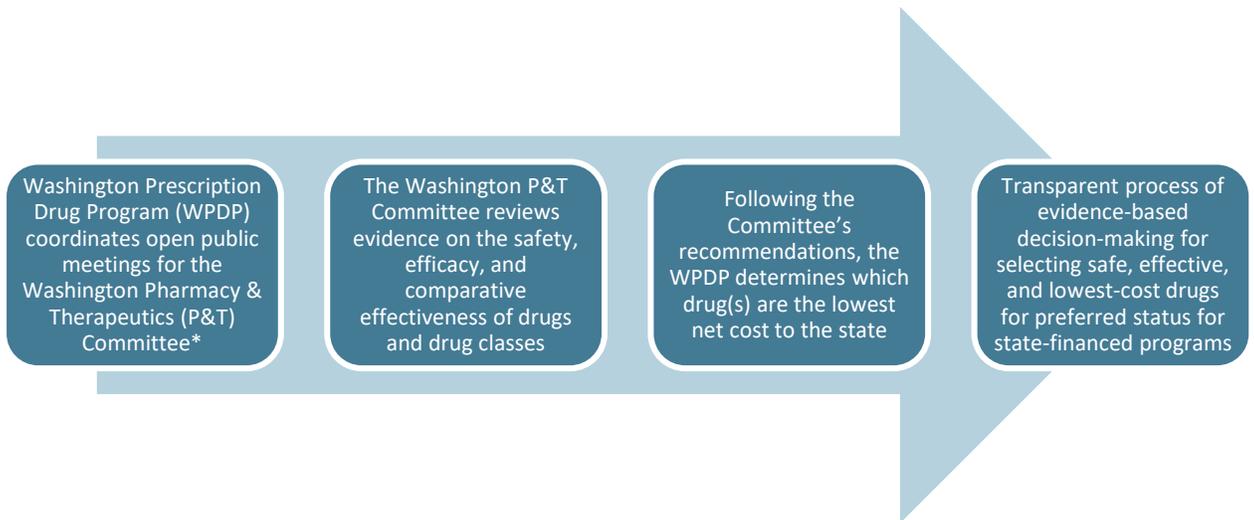
GOAL

The Prescription Drug Program designs and delivers high quality, evidence-based pharmacy programs by exploring collaborative and innovative prescription drug purchasing strategies.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Manageable and sustainable pharmacy and overall cost trends
- Clinical policies for new medications to ensure appropriate utilization
- Improved health outcomes through access to medications

HOW IT WORKS



*The Washington State Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee is made up of 10 practicing physicians, pharmacists, and other clinicians.

THE CHALLENGE

Highly expensive breakthrough therapies continue to come to market for orphan diseases (i.e., diseases affecting less than 200,000 individuals nationwide). For traditional pharmaceuticals, prices continue to rise, even for older generic drugs.

DESCRIPTION

HCA administers two state-financed health programs: Washington State Apple Health (Medicaid) and the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB). It will also administer the School Employee Benefits Board (SEBB) program beginning in 2020.

For PEBB, HCA contracts with Moda Health to manage the pharmacy benefit for the Uniform Medical Plan (UMP), the state's self-insured health plan. Moda and its partners contract with manufacturers for drug rebates and they negotiate reimbursement rates with pharmacies to pay for medications dispensed to members.

For Medicaid, HCA manages a single PDL for the five contracted Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) and the fee-for-service (FFS) program. The goal of the single PDL is to direct Apple Health clients to the high value drugs.

HOW WE GET THERE

Apple Health has a single preferred drug list across five MCOs and the FFS program to align prescription drug coverage for all Medicaid programs. A single PDL allows all Apple Health programs to benefit from proprietary federal rebates to which MCOs do not have access. Rebate transparency helps HCA drive to the lowest cost while maintaining access to essential drugs. Further, a single PDL removes member uncertainty about pharmaceutical coverage changes when changing managed care plans.

Separate from the Apple Health PDL, HCA manages the Washington Preferred Drug List (WA-PDL), used by UMP and comprising approximately 35 drug classes. Moda manages the PDL for UMP for those drug classes not on the WA-PDL. HCA aligns clinical policies across all programs (i.e., opioid use and Hepatitis C treatment) whenever possible.

Typically, preferred drugs with a clear evidence-base have fewer restrictions for providers, improving access to high value drugs.

RESULTS

- HCA launched the single PDL for Apple Health on January 1, 2018.
- HCA implemented a new opioid policy in November 2017 and January 2018 for Apple Health and UMP, respectively.
- Washington State has launched a Hepatitis C elimination strategy with HCA, the Department of Health, and other partners.