



Retrospective Drug Utilization Review Program

Retrospective Drug Utilization Review (rDUR) occurs after the prescription has been dispensed. It is a program that evaluates a member's drug history to identify prescribing issues. Alerts are sent by mail or fax to physicians, addressing prescribing practices and uses that are unsafe, ineffective, or otherwise inconsistent with evidence-based standards of care.

rDUR complements the Concurrent DUR (CDUR) program by identifying physicians who for some reason may be resistant to the messages generated by concurrent monitoring. rDUR is a safety management strategy. The program's goals are to make the use of prescription drugs safer for PharmPix clients' members and improve the quality of care by providing this information to the prescriber. The rDUR program intervenes on high-risk related problems and notifies physicians of safety risks identified through the review and provides recommendations for management.

The rDUR program retrospectively identifies opportunities to enhance compliance with clinical practice guidelines and evaluate cost-reduction opportunities. Many patients are receiving complex medication regimens and also receiving medications from different physicians. These regimens include various medications with different dosing schedules and instructions. This increases the potential for therapeutic duplication and drug interactions. By making those medication regimens simpler, pharmacy costs can decrease and quality of life can improve. Patient computerized records are screened to determine whether the drug therapy meets approved criteria.

Issues addressed by rDUR include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. **Drug-Drug Interactions:** Identifies patients who are receiving two or more drugs that when taken together can cause undesirable effects.
- B. **Over Utilization:** Identifies patients who receive drugs at excessive dosage levels or for inappropriately extended periods of time.
- C. **Polypharmacy:** Identifies patients who take more than 10 prescriptions per month.
- D. **Under Utilization:** Identifies patients who may be non-compliant with their maintenance medications.
- E. **Drug-Pregnancy:** Identifies patients who may be at risk of teratogenic effects or pregnancy complications from the use of certain drugs. This includes women who may be pregnant based on drug markers and are on pregnancy category medications D or X.

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- F. **Addictive Substance:** Identifies patients receiving a large number of prescriptions for controlled substances or receiving a large daily dose of a controlled substance. Patients receiving medication for either cancer or HIV are excluded.
 - G. **Duplicate Therapy:** Identifies patients who have two or more current prescriptions for medications within one of the targeted therapy classes.
 - H. **Long Term Hypnotics:** Identifies patients who have received a large cumulative day supply for hypnotic medications.

PharmPix provides a great degree of flexibility with program design in order to meet clients' needs.

If you have any questions or wish to have more information regarding this document, you can call us at **787-522-5252 Ext.219**. Our pharmacists will help you.