Background

The scope of pharmacy practice has evolved from the traditional role of compounding and dispensing medications to becoming a core component of the health care delivery system.

The validation of managed care pharmacists, physicians, nurses, and other clinical staff offers opportunities for optimizing drug therapy and reducing costs.

Methods

Study Population

- The population of focus for this prospective review was identified using integrated medical and pharmacy claims data. Focusing on high cost and high volume members.

- High cost and high risk members from Medicare, commercial, and pharmacy benefit management (PBM) plans.

- These members’ medical and pharmacy claims were reviewed for drug therapy utilization opportunities followed by managed care pharmacist

Managed care pharmacist

- Managed care pharmacists worked collaboratively within a multi-disciplinary care management team through a pharmacy benefit management (PBM) plan to identify quality of care and improve medical utilization and managing access through targeted interventions of high-risk engaged members and providers (Figure 1).

- Opportunities to update drug regimens included a review of key drug categories and disease states, as well as various referrals from colleagues within the PBM teams.

Key drug categories and disease states

- Anti-infective medications.
- Oncology
- Renal disease.

- Managed care pharmacists reviewed prior authorization requests for key drugs of high cost and high risk.

- Cost savings were confirmed by a health plan actuary. The population of focus for this prospective review was identified using integrated medical and pharmacy claims data. Focusing on high cost and high volume members.

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