

**Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee Testimony**  
**Ohio Sunset Review Committee**  
**Sean Eckard, Pharmacy Director, Ohio Department of Medicaid**  
**July 30, 2024**

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair Hillyer and members of the Sunset Review Committee, thank you for letting me testify today as an interested party on the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. My name is Sean Eckard, and I am the Pharmacy Director at the Ohio Department of Medicaid.

Per Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 5164.7510, The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (“P&T Committee” or “Committee”) shall review and recommend to the Medicaid Director the drugs that should be included on the preferred drug list. The recommendations shall be made based on the evaluation of competent evidence regarding the relative safety, efficacy, and effectiveness of prescribed drugs within a class or classes of prescribed drugs. Members are appointed by the Medicaid Director and shall consist of three (3) pharmacists, two (2) doctors of medicine, two (2) doctors of osteopathy, one (1) registered nurse, one (1) pharmacologist, and one (1) psychiatrist.<sup>1</sup>

The P&T Committee serves in an advisory manner, providing the department with valuable expert counsel regarding the ever-changing and complex world of pharmacy. Appointed members apply their clinical practice knowledge to review new drugs and recommend their placement on the Ohio Medicaid Unified Preferred Drug List (UPDL). Additionally, each member applies their expert knowledge of current clinical practice during quarterly Committee discussions, and that expertise is incorporated into final recommendations. The Committee’s recommendations are based on drug safety, efficacy, and comparative clinical evidence. Committee members do not receive any compensation for their service on the Committee.

Committee recommendations are in accordance with FDA-approved labeling of prescription drug products, published drug compendia, medical literature, and/or current clinical practice standards. All Committee members have experience serving Medicaid patients and provide a direct view into the unique needs of Ohio Medicaid recipients. The Committee serves a vital role to ensure Ohioans served by Medicaid have appropriate access to safe and effective pharmaceuticals.

In the absence of the P&T Committee, the Department of Medicaid would still be required to perform all the Committee’s functions, however it would occur without the expert input the Committee members provide. This would require additional vendor contracts and costs to the State, while sacrificing the independence of the current, all-volunteer Committee.

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair Hillyer, and members of the Sunset Review Committee, thank you again for letting me testify today in support of reauthorization of the P&T Committee, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

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<sup>1</sup> More information on requirements for each appointee may be found in ORC Sec. 5164.7510.