



New York State Medicaid Evidence Based Benefit Review Advisory Committee

Thursday, July 25, 2024
10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (EDT)

Empire State Plaza, Concourse
Meeting Room #6
Albany NY

Meeting Summary

Attendees	
Committee Members: Edmund Altone, Victor Badner, Elisabeth Benjamin, Katherine Breslin, Douglas DeLong, James De Meo, Marie-Carmel Garçon, Peter Newell, Sanjiv Shah, Douglas Fish*, Nathan Graber**	
NYS DOH Staff: Kate Bliss, Shirley Belotte, Thomas Sciortino, Suzette Sadio, Trisha Schell-Guy, Khalil Alshaer, Eileen Stewart, Priscilla Paiva, Jill Schaefer, Joanne Criscione	
Center for Evidence-based Policy Staff: Liz Brown, Val King, Laura Pavlech, Allison Leof, Dave Radley, Susan Stuard, Véronique Johnstone	
Others: Eugene Heslin (1 st Deputy Commissioner and Chief Medical Officer), Benjamin Eddy (Whiteman, Osterman, Harney & Hanna)	

*Chair of the Committee

**Chair Designee

Welcome and Introductions	
Discussion	<p>Dr. Nathan Graber and Dr. Douglas Fish welcomed the Committee members.</p> <p>EBBRAC members present introduced themselves.</p> <p>Nathan Graber noted that several committee members were not present and that NYSDOH was working to fill 2 vacancies on the committee. Nathan Graber confirmed that a quorum was present, and the committee could proceed with scheduled business.</p>



	<p>Nathan Graber reviewed NYSDOH's definitions of medical necessity and the GRADE Evidence to Decision Framework the committee would be using to guide recommendations.</p> <p>Trisha Schell-Guy presented background on the EBBRAC committee and reviewed conflict of interest provisions and the code of ethics requirements for EBBRAC members. Nathan Graber reviewed the EBBRAC bylaws.</p>
Action Items and Decisions	<p>Elisabeth Benjamin requested that NYSDOH staff inform committee members of any corporate ownership of technologies being considered by the Committee so members could review their retirement investments for conflicts of interest. Trisha Schell-Guy responded that NYSDOH staff would keep that in mind for future meetings.</p> <p>Katherine Breslin moved to approve the EBBRAC bylaws; James DeMeo seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 11 to 0.</p>
New York Department of Health Updates	
Discussion	NYSDOH staff did not present any DOH updates.
Action Items and Decisions	None.
Public Comment and Presentations (if available)	
Discussion	There was no public comment.
Action Items And Decisions	None.



Topic: Collagen Cross-Linking in Individuals With Keratoconus

<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Liz Brown provided an overview of the methods used to develop evidence reports reviewed by the EBBRAC and presented an overview of the evidence on collagen cross-linking (CXL) for individuals with keratoconus and policies of selected other state’s Medicaid programs and private payers. The Committee was tasked with determining whether (a) there was sufficient high-quality evidence demonstrating the effectiveness of CXL for individuals with keratoconus; and (b) whether the evidence supported coverage of the procedure.</p> <p>Committee discussion points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions about the exact prevalence of keratoconus in the NYS Medicaid population although committee members expressed understanding that it is a relatively rare condition • Current Medicaid coverage of related treatments (e.g. coverage of gas permeable contact lenses, keratoplasty [corneal transplant]), and concern that MCOs may vary in their implementation of those coverage policies. • Need to consider the needs of special populations including individuals with Down Syndrome who have a higher prevalence of the condition • Concerns about access to ophthalmologists and corneal specialists needed to diagnose and treat the condition • The FDA process used to approve the treatment • Concerns that the manufacturer of the riboflavin drops used in the procedure does not participate in the Medicaid drug rebate program • Concerns about potential unknown long-term complications beyond timeframe of published studies • Whether studies showed that the procedure demonstrated sufficient long-term effectiveness • Questions about whether procedure delays or reduces need for corneal transplant • Details of other coverage policies reviewed, including age limitations and requirement that condition be documented as progressive. <p>Elisabeth Benjamin made a motion for EBBRAC to recommend NYSDOH pursue coverage of epithelium off CXL for patients diagnosed with progressive keratoconus for individuals aged 14 years or older. Douglas DeLong seconded the motion.</p>
<p>Action Items And Decisions</p>	<p>The committee decided unanimously to approve the motion (11 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions).</p>



Final Comments:	
Discussion	The committee will provide input via poll on the next meeting date due to conflicts with the proposed date of Nov. 7 th . Meeting was adjourned.
Action Items And Decisions	None.