



INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE
National Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee
****Fall 2025 NPTC Meeting Update****
=November 2025=



The Indian Health Service (IHS) National Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (NPTC) held its Fall 2025 meeting on November 4-5th, 2025 in Oklahoma City, OK. Eleven IHS Areas were represented. Jonathan Iralu, MD, IHS Chief Clinical Consultant (CCC) for Infectious Diseases provided subject matter expertise during the meeting. Affiliates from the United States (U.S.) Department of Defense and Coast Guard provided information on formulary updates and meeting topics from their respective agencies. The NPTC values the relationships with federal colleagues, field experts, and subject matter experts and appreciates the opportunity to host this formulary management meeting at the Oklahoma City IHS Area Office.

The Fall 2025 Meeting agenda included clinical reviews of (1) Inflammatory Bowel Disease guidelines, (2) Biologic Disease-Modifying Antirheumatic Drugs for Rheumatoid Arthritis, (3) Open Angle Glaucoma, (4) Human Immunodeficiency Virus Injectables, (5) Constipation, and (6) Pediatric Antibiotic Stewardship.

The resulting action(s) from the NPTC meeting were as follows:

1. A focused guideline review of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) and related treatment was provided to the Committee. *Medication(s) listed on the IHS National Core Formulary (NCF) relevant to this review include(s) adalimumab, azathioprine, mercaptopurine, mesalamine (oral), methotrexate, prednisone, and sulfasalazine.* Guidelines from the American College of Gastroenterology for Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis, the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), the British Society of Gastroenterology, and European Crohn's and Colitis Organization for Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis were detailed in full. Agency procurement and pharmacovigilance data were shared and discussed at length. Following review and deliberation, the NPTC made **no modifications** to the NCF.
2. A pharmacotherapeutic review of Biologic Disease-Modifying Antirheumatic Drugs (DMARDs) for Rheumatoid Arthritis was delivered to the NPTC. *Medications listed on the IHS NCF relevant to this review include(s) adalimumab-bwwd and etanercept.* The Rheumatology Access Expansion Initiative served as a primary source of guidance for this topic. Population health statistics and procurement data provided scope and utility indicators for these agents across the Agency. Ultimately, the NPTC made **no modifications** to the NCF.
3. A pharmacotherapeutic review of Open Angle Glaucoma (OAG) was also given. *Medications listed on the IHS NCF relevant to this review include(s) any ophthalmic prostaglandin analogue.* Clinical practice guidelines from the American Academy of Ophthalmology and National Institute for Health and Care Excellence were evaluated in depth. A variety of therapies for managing OAG were discussed, including implants, laser treatment, surgery and medications. Agency data on pharmacovigilance and procurement were included. As a result of this clinical evaluation, the NPTC voted to **ADD (1) either dorzolamide/timolol ophthalmic drops -OR- brimonidine/timolol ophthalmic drops, and (2) timolol maleate ophthalmic drops** to the NCF.
4. A pharmacotherapeutic review of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Injectable Therapies was detailed, with particular focus on current injectable medications for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis. *Medication(s) listed on the NCF relevant to this review include(s) emtricitabine and tenofovir*

disoproxil fumarate. Randomized, controlled trials (RCTs) of lenacapavir specifically were reviewed and compared with other available PrEP medications. Guidance from the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), [World Health Organization](#) and [New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute](#) were also shared. IHS-wide pharmacovigilance and pharmacoeconomic trends offered additional insight. Ultimately, the NPTC made **no modifications** to the NCF.

5. A pharmacotherapeutic review of therapies for [Management of Constipation](#) was presented. The evaluation included treatments for chronic idiopathic constipation, functional constipation, opioid-induced constipation and constipation-predominant Irritable Bowel Syndrome. *Medication(s) listed on the NCF relevant to this review include(s) lactulose and polyethylene glycol.* Findings from numerous RCTs and Cochrane reviews of both inter- and intra-drug class comparisons were scrutinized. Pharmacovigilance and pharmacoeconomic data trends in IHS provided value information for decisional consideration. As a result, the NPTC voted to **ADD (1) any sennoside -OR- bisacodyl product, (2) any psyllium product, and (3) lubiprostone** to the NCF.
6. Lastly, a clinical review of [Pediatric Antibiotic Stewardship](#) was provided to the Committee. *Medication(s) listed on the NCF relevant to this review include(s) amoxicillin, amoxicillin-clavulanate, azithromycin, benzathine penicillin G, cefdinir, cefixime, ceftriaxone, cephalixin, clindamycin, doxycycline, nitrofurantoin, penicillin VK, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole.* Guidance from the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), [CDC](#), [Joint Commission on Antibiotic Stewardship](#) and [Infectious Diseases Society of America](#) on antibiotic stewardship were provided. Various prescriber surveys and clinical trials were shared, describing improvements in antibiotic prescribing patterns and appropriateness with antibiotic stewardship programs. Following committee deliberation, the NPTC made **no modifications** to the NCF.

**The next scheduled NPTC meeting will be the Winter 2026 Meeting on February 3-4th, 2026 in Phoenix, AZ. The meeting agenda will include reviews of (1) Prevention of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), (2) CKD Guidelines Review, (3) Management of Diabetes/Hypertension-related Nephropathy, (4) Pediatric CKD Issues (e.g., glomerulonephropathies), (5) Anemia of CKD, and (6) Bone Health in CKD.*

CLICK HERE --- >>> [Submit Feedback for upcoming NPTC Scheduled Meeting Topics:](#)

The purpose of this form is to collect feedback and/or recommendations regarding scheduled agenda topics for upcoming National Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee meetings from Indian Health Service (IHS) clinicians working at Federal, Tribal or Urban Indian Organization programs/sites/facilities. Input on topics for upcoming review can include potential medications for addition or deletion from the IHS National Core Formulary (NCF).

For more information about the NPTC or the National Core Formulary, please visit the [NPTC website](#).
