



Indian Health Service
National Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee
NPTC Spring Meeting Update
-May 2015-



The IHS National Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (NPTC) held its spring meeting on May 5-6th, 2015 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Eleven of the 12 Indian Health Service (IHS) Areas were represented at the meeting. CDR Loria Pollack, MD, from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion and CDR Jodi Tricinella, PharmD (Claremore Indian Hospital) served as invited guests to discuss antibiotic stewardship. Affiliates from the Department of Defense (DoD), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the United States Coast Guard provided clinical input and updates on future meeting topics and class reviews. The NPTC continues to appreciate the relationship with experts from the field and with other governmental agencies. Additionally, the NPTC appreciated the opportunity to host the meeting from the IHS Oklahoma City Area Office.

The NPTC received two presentations on antibiotic stewardship as well as therapeutic class reviews covering antiplatelet agents, sulfonylureas and testosterone and –like products.

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

1. A therapeutic class review of oral antiplatelet agents (specifically clopidogrel, prasugrel and ticagrelor) was provided, referencing findings and guidelines from the 2014 AHRQ study, the European Society of Cardiology and the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association. Additionally, primary literature directly comparing antiplatelet agents as well as VA and DoD formulary criteria were presented. IHS medication utilization, procurement and metrics from the IHS National Data Warehouse (NDW) were also reviewed. The IHS National Core Formulary (NCF) currently includes clopidogrel and aspirin as antiplatelet agents although aspirin was not included in the review. **No modifications were made** to the NCF and a formulary brief will be developed and disseminated, providing a review of the relevant guidelines and findings from the presentation.
2. A therapeutic class review of sulfonylureas was presented with specific focus on comparative intra-class (and generational class differences in) efficacy and safety. Guidelines from the American Diabetes Association and American Academy of Clinical Endocrinology describing the role of sulfonylureas in the management of diabetes mellitus (DM) were also delivered. Relevant primary literature, positional articles, systematic reviews and meta-analyses were reviewed. Agency-specific medication utilization, procurement and NDW data were provided. As a result of the clinical analysis, the **NPTC removed glyburide from the NCF**, leaving glipizide as the sole sulfonylurea on the NCF. A formulary brief describing the literature and safety concerns, resulting in removal of glyburide from the NCF, will be developed and disseminated.
3. A therapeutic review of testosterone and –like products was given in concert with IHS-wide data on procurement, utilization and NDW data trending. Testosterone therapy in both men and women was provided and included a review of available combination products (e.g., esterified estrogen-methyltestosterone) and indications. A series of contemporary publications, meta-analyses and guidelines were reviewed in addition to the Food and Drug Administration's recent Drug Safety Communication on testosterone replacement therapy

labeling. The NCF currently contains no testosterone medications and, following the NPTC review, **no modifications were made to the NCF**. A formulary brief detailing prescribers on both the reported risks of use as well as the appropriate patient population where testosterone therapy may warrant consideration will be developed and disseminated.

4. A comprehensive review of antibiotic stewardship (AS) was delivered to the NPTC with particular emphasis on implementing the CDC's core elements of antibiotic stewardship within the IHS. Both the recent Executive Order 13676 and the resultant National Action Plan for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria regarding the implementation of antibiotic stewardship programs were addressed in detail. Guidelines from the Infectious Disease Society of America and Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America guidelines were also provided. Examples of successful AS implementation within various IHS facilities were shared as well as "lessons learned" from those exemplary IHS sites.

A subsequent presentation from the IHS Pharmacy Antibiotic Stewardship Workgroup provided a series of proposed agency-wide efforts for AS implementation. Potential performance metrics for benchmarking of AS program success were also provided. Agency-specific data (e.g. NDW, drug procurement / utilization) was delivered for committee review. The NCF is designated primarily for medications addressing chronic disease management and does not currently contain acute antibiotic medications. Based on expert and NPTC recommendations, **no modifications were made to the NCF**. A formulary brief combining principles from both presentations will be developed and disseminated with emphasis on the critical elements for AS implementation.

*The next meeting will be held in Denver, CO on August 18-19th, 2015. The agenda topics will include medication adherence, a class review of novel insulin products, a review of new COPD combination regimens and reviews of both tobacco cessation guidelines and medications.

If you would like to recommend a topic for future NPTC discussion, please fill out the "[NPTC Formulary Review Request Form](#)" on the NPTC website or send an email at IHSNPTC1@ihs.gov.

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