UP Health System – Marquette
Marquette, MI 49855

UPHSM Drug Formulary Overview

Under the direction of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee, UPHSM maintains a formulary system for selecting drugs to be used within this institution (see Figure 1). It is our belief that with increasing reliance on drug therapy in patient care, it is necessary to have mechanisms that optimize medication use. Foremost among these mechanisms are policies that govern the selection and availability of those medications considered most useful for patient care. The formulary system is a commonly accepted method for meeting regulatory requirements concerning the medication use process and for assuring the quality of drug therapy while reducing cost. A detailed description of the formulary system is available in the interdisciplinary standard, Formulary System of Drug Use (100-138).

Unlabeled Uses of FDA Approved Drugs
The P&T Committee believes that prescribers may order drugs outside of FDA approved product labeling as long as relevant clinical literature supporting that use is available and readily retrievable. To help optimize safety and effectiveness of a drug prescribed for an unlabeled use, pharmacists, nurses, and other healthcare professionals are encouraged to confer with the prescriber prior to administration of that medication. Further, the Committee believes that the package insert is informational only and serves as a guide for prescribing drugs.

Online Formulary
The UPHSM Formulary of approved drugs is maintained by the Department of Pharmacy and can be searched via the UPHSM Online Formulary website. Due to ongoing changes in evidence-based medicine and monthly P&T Committee meetings to address these changes, the formulary is continually revised. These changes are summarized in the “Summary of Activities” as well as the “Formulary Update” section of the P&T Newsletter.

- Requests for formulary addition may be initiated by an attending physician by contacting the Clinical Pharmacy Service (225-7586).
- Requests for product line extensions may also be initiated by an attending physician or pharmacist by contacting the Clinical Pharmacy Service.

Nonformulary Drugs
Nonformulary drugs for which there is recognized use will be maintained at inventory levels sufficient to meet anticipated demand. The P&T Committee, through the Pharmacy Department, best responds to physicians’ prescribing of nonformulary drugs either by physician education to discourage use of nonformulary agents when a formulary alternative is available (see Figure 2), or by adding needed agents to the Formulary.

Guidelines for Use
Beginning in 2011, the P&T Committee will routinely establish specific indications for the use of certain formulary and nonformulary drugs in this institution. Additionally, guidelines for appropriate use of selected agents approved prior to this date have also been established (i.e., daptomycin). When appropriate, guidelines for a class of agents are provided (i.e., carbapenems). Refer to the online formulary for a listing of these agents.

Restricted Drugs
Selected drugs may be restricted in their use, either by medical service (i.e., a drug restricted to use by Infectious Diseases attending), prescribing criteria (i.e., a drug restricted to use by specific indication), or patient care area (i.e., a drug restricted to use only in the intensive care unit). If the physician orders a restricted drug, the restricted-drug policy guidelines apply (see individual agents for further details).

Nonstock Items
Drugs that have not been reviewed by the P&T Committee will not be maintained in inventory. Additionally, the P&T Committee may declare selected drugs as being nonstock items based on usage patterns, new therapeutic data, and/or available formulary alternatives. In the event a nonstock drug needs to be obtained, the smallest amount sufficient to meet a patient’s need will be ordered on a case by case basis as deemed appropriate by the P&T Committee Chairman (see Figure 3).

Requests for nonformulary, nonstock agents may be initiated by an attending physician by contacting the Clinical Pharmacy Service. Delivery of these agents may not be prompt because these items are usually procured outside the hospital. Therefore, the physician is urged to prescribe an appropriate Formulary Drug, particularly in emergencies.
Figure 1: UPHSM Formulary Approval Process.

Attending-level Physician Generates Request for Formulary Consideration and Approved by Appropriate Service Line Committee.

Drug Literature Evaluation performed by Clinical Pharmacy Service and reviewed by Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Committee with focus on the following parameters:
- Safety
- Tolerability
- Efficacy
- Pharmacoeconomic analyses
- Product availability

Formal Decision made by P&T Committee in which guidelines for use may be established. Agent is placed into one of the following categories:
- Available as Formulary or Nonformulary (with or without restrictions)
- Nonstock (agent will not be maintained in pharmacy inventory)

Pharmacy Charging/Purchasing
- Charge codes
- Purchasing description
- Inventory levels

Informatics/I.T.
- Paragon description
- AMMS description

Pharmacy Clinical
- Medication Safety Review
- Formulary listing
- Staff education

Medication Usage Evaluation (MUE)
- Usage (potential for misuse)
- Safety considerations (medication error/adverse drug reaction reporting)
- Financial (significant changes in cost)

MUE results may be communicated with appropriate medical, nursing, and/or pharmacy staff. Corrective actions taken as necessary.

Appeals may be made directly to the Chairman of the P&T Committee by attending-level physicians only.
Figure 2: UPHSM Formulary Management Process.

Prescriber Orders Medication → Order Review by Pharmacist

Formulary Agent

Non-formulary Agent

- Therapeutic Interchange Approved?
  - Yes: Substitute Formulary Agent
  - No: Does agent have medical staff sanctioned use in hospital? (see guidelines for use)

Restricted Agent

- Follow Established Protocol (see guidelines for use)

Therapeutic Interchange Approved?

Does agent have medical staff sanctioned use in hospital? (see guidelines for use)

- No (i.e., nonstock drug)
  - Don't know or not yet evaluated
  - Accepted By Prescriber
  - Initiate Nonstock Approval Process

Consult Clinical Pharmacy Service

- Recommend Alternative Therapy
  - Rejected By Prescriber

Is medication available?

- Yes
  - Acceptance by Prescriber

- No
  - Consult Clinical Pharmacy Service

Medication Provided
**Figure 3: UPHSM Nonstock Approval Process.**

Prescriber orders nonstock medication, alternative therapy recommendation rejected by prescriber

Pharmacist receiving order contacts Pharmacy Director/Clinical Pharmacy Service

Pharmacy Director/Clinical Pharmacy Service contacts Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee Chair for initial approval (Dr. Frederick P. Hoenke)

Requested Nonstock Medication Approved?

No, alternative therapy recommendation provided

Yes

Procurement of patient-specific request initiated by attending physician using nonstock request form

Clinical Pharmacy Service conducts medication safety review including notation of REMS requirements, if applicable

Nonstock approval form sent to P&T Committee Chair for final approval

Medication Provided