

DUR Program FAQs

What is Drug Utilization Review (DUR)?

Drug utilization review programs help to ensure that prescriptions for outpatient drugs are appropriate, medically necessary, and not likely to result in adverse medical consequences.

How is Drug Utilization conducted?

DUR programs use professional medical protocols and computer technology and data processing to assist in the management of data regarding the prescribing of medicines and the dispensing of prescriptions over periods of time.

Why is there a NYS Medicaid Drug Utilization Review Board (DURB)?

Federal legislation requires states to implement DUR programs and also requires states to establish DUR boards whose function is to play a major role in each state's DUR program. Pursuant to state law, the DURB was created to establish and implement medical standards and criteria for Medicaid's DUR programs.

What is the role of the DURB?

The role of the DURB is to establish and implement medical standards and criteria for the retrospective and prospective DUR program.

What is the make-up of the NYS Medicaid Drug Utilization Review Board (DURB)?

The NYS [DURB](#) consists of five physicians, five pharmacists, two pharmacologists or health care professionals with expertise in drug utilization, and one Commissioner's designee

How often does the DUR Board meet?

The schedule of the DURB meetings varies. Dates of the meetings and [Agendas](#) are listed on the DUR website.

How are providers updated about DUR changes?

All changes relating to New York DUR activity will be communicated to providers via the monthly Medicaid Update publications or through DUR informational materials.

Are there specific drugs or programs subject to DUR?

Based on recommendations by the DURB, there are two programs in place to ensure clinically appropriate and cost effective use of certain drugs and drug classes.

- [Medicaid Pharmacy Step Therapy Program](#)
- [Medicaid Pharmacy Frequency/Quantity/Duration \(F/Q/D\) Program](#)

What is the Step Therapy program?

The Step Therapy program encourages the use of medically appropriate, cost effective drugs when clinically indicated and to limit use of alternative drug therapies unless certain clinical requirements are met.

What is the F/Q/D Program?

The F/Q/D program limits the frequency, quantity, and duration of drug therapy while considering clinical effectiveness, safety, and cost effectiveness.