

Epilepsy Treatment and Education Task Force

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 15th 2011

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Vic Verni called to order the first meeting of the Epilepsy Treatment and Education Task Force at 3:10pm on Tuesday, November 15th 2011, in Room 518 of the Lucas State Office Building in Des Moines, Iowa.

PRESENT

Members of the Task Force in attendance were Kristin Wells, Dale Todd, Kevin Harris, Geoff Wall, Chasity Mease, Dr. David Friedgood, Dr. Todd Janus, and Dr. David Moore.

Members of the Task Force not in attendance were Brett Barker.

Others in attendance were Vic Verni, Jessica Peters, Jill Myers Gadelmann, Nicole Schultz, Kyle Frette, Patty Funaro, Jess Benson, and Mike Triplett.

I. Election of Chairperson

Vic Verni opened the floor for the election of the chairperson for the Epilepsy Treatment and Education Task Force. Kristin Wells nominated Dale Todd. Jeff Wall seconded. Dale Todd was appointed to Chairperson with a unanimous vote.

II. Background/History

Kyle Frette provided a summary of the legislative action in Iowa concerning the drug product selection relative to antiepileptic drugs for treatment of epileptic seizures, resulting in the creation of the *Epilepsy Treatment and Education Task Force*.
Review of House File 322.

Dr. Janus questioned the purpose of the Task Force, referring to section 4 of HF 322, explaining the Task Force could not make any changes until the FDA has evaluated the issue at a federal level.

Patty Funaro with the Legislative Services Agency clarified the legislative intent was to not pass any substitution law in Iowa for two years while the FDA evaluates this issue. However, on January 13, 2013, the Task Force shall make any recommendations to the Iowa Legislature regarding this issue if it is not addressed by the FDA in that time. Federal law will have to be followed should anything change.

III. Objectives of the Task Force

Vic Verni reviewed the objectives of the Epilepsy Treatment and Education Task Force as set forth in House File 322.

- a. Assess the impact on people with epilepsy of generically equivalent drug product selection for the treatment of epileptic seizures.
- b. Provide education and information materials on epilepsy treatment and medication selection to people in the state of Iowa.

- c. Report findings of (a) to the State of Iowa Legislator by January 1, 2013.

IV. Open Issues/Discussion

- a. Scientific Data vs. Anecdotal Data/Geoff Wall questioned the amount of scientific data available from Iowa and the issue of producing an accurate report for the legislature with only anecdotal data, explaining “blanket population changes based on anecdotal data is problematic.” Geoff Wall stated the Task Force should not rely on anything but hard data.

Dr. Friedgood and Dale Todd suggested the need to review anecdotal data from providers’ offices in Iowa and patient cases if that is the information available. Dr. Janus explained that the Task Force is operating under the assumption that generics are equivalent to brand name drugs, since there is a study currently being conducted by the National Institutes of Health and no hard data has been unveiled yet.

Dr. David Moore joined the meeting at 3:45

- b. Survey of Iowa Neurologists/Dr. Janus proposed conducting a survey through the Iowa Neurological Association, asking Iowa neurologists if they have seen patients on anti-epileptic drugs switched from one manufacturer to another without notification. The Task Force agreed to pursue the survey. Dr. Todd Janus will propose idea to INA board.
- c. Dispense As Written Evaluation/ Geoff Wall suggested reviewing the DAW process to ensure patients receive the correct medication. Dr. Janus and Dr. Moore testified that DAW has limitations, explaining that patients have still encountered switching issues at the pharmacy. Dr. Moore explained writing “medically necessary” is sometimes needed in addition to DAW. Geoff Wall suggested creating a stamp or special marking to identify the sensitive patient cases who need DAW/Medically Necessary; making it easily identifiable to the provider/pharmacist/patient.
- d. Access Iowa Public Health Numbers/Dr. Janus proposed gathering public health records on ER and hospital admissions with epilepsy codes, in order to obtain state level data to report to the Iowa Legislature. Dr. Moore expanded upon this idea suggesting the Task Force compare hospital admittance data to the release of generics on the market, in order to determine if any spikes occur during the timeframes when new drugs and generic were released on the market; thus assessing if there is a cause and effect relationship.

Jill Myers Gadelmann with the Iowa Department of Public Health will inquire about access to statewide ER/hospital admittance records weekly for the past three years with epilepsy codes 780.39 or 345**

- e. Pharmacy Procedure/ Dale Todd proposed that the Task Force take a closer look at the supply/order and manufacturer selection process of pharmacies to determine what product options patients have concerning anti-epileptic drugs. Kevin Harris questioned the product ordering process of pharmacies, explaining pharmacies

provide a service to patients and should work towards supplying customers with products best suited for the individual.

Dr. Moore explained when pharmacies stockpile a particular product there is usually a cost-savings associated with the purchase. Therefore ordering from various manufacturers is not always beneficial for the pharmacy and cost is an issue that should be considered throughout the Task Force's investigation process. Chasity Mease from Walgreens explained that a pharmacist does not have control over the manufacturer selection process and must work with the drug products that are available.

V. Wrap Up

Chairperson Dale Todd summarized the next steps of the Task Force regarding the collection of Iowa data. Information will be reported back to the Task Force at the next meeting.

- Survey of Iowa Neurologists: Geoff Wall and Dr. Moore will organize survey questions. Dr. Janus will pitch the idea to the Iowa Neurological Association.
- Iowa Public Health Numbers: Jill Myers Gadelmann will collect requested ER/hospital admission data as stated under section IV part d.

The next Epilepsy Treatment and Education Task Force meeting was set for Tuesday, December 13th at 3pm with location at the Lucas State Office Building TBA.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Dale Todd adjourned the Epilepsy Treatment and Education Task Force meeting at 4:45pm.

Minutes submitted by: Jessica Peters

Minutes approved by: