North Carolina State Health Plan
FOR TEACHERS AND STATE EMPLOYEES
A Division of the Department of State Treasurer

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**PHARMACY AND THERAPEUTICS (P&T) COMMITTEE**
**October 22, 2025**

The meeting of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee of the North Carolina State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees (the Plan) was called to order at 6:30 P.M. (EST) on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 via webinar, accessible to the public through the Plan's website. Quorum was present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**
Ghassan Al-Sabbagh, MD, Gastroenterologist/Hepatologist, Gastroenterology & Hepatology Consultants
Jennifer Burch, PharmD, CDE, Owner, Central Compounding Center
W. Russell Laundon, PharmD, Pharmacist, Director of Pharmacy Integration, UNC Health Care
David Konanc, MD, Neurologist, Raleigh Neurology Associates
Phil Seats, RPh, Retired Pharmacist
Timothy Ashley MD, MPH Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, Duke Primary Care, Regional Director
Garland Moeller MD, Rheumatologist, CarolinaEast Internal Medicine

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**
None

**PLAN & VENDOR STAFF:**
Tom Friedman, Executive Director, State Health Plan
Caroline Smart, Deputy Executive Administrator, State Health Plan
Jenny Vogel, PharmD, Sr. Clinical Pharmacist, State Health Plan
Emma Turner, Chief Economist, State Health Plan
Sonya Dunn, Director Integrated Health Management, State Health Plan
Bryan Allard, Financial Analyst, State Health Plan
Renée Jarnigan, RPh, Clinical Advisor, CVS Health

*Welcome*
The Chairperson welcomed the Committee members and guests to the webinar and performed roll call.

*Conflict of Interest Statement*
The Chairperson requested that the P&T Committee members review the agenda, which was distributed prior to the meeting, and to disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest with any item on the agenda. No conflicts of interest were noted.

The Cordavis Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement was shown and read to the Committee Members as is standard practice when a Cordavis product is presented at a meeting.

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*Old Business*

The Chairperson asked the P&T Committee members to review the August 20, 2025 P&T Committee Meeting minutes, which were distributed prior to the meeting. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes, so they were approved as is.

*Executive Director Update*

Mr. Friedman provided members of the committee with a brief executive director update.

*Biosimilar Strategy*

Dr. Vogel began by presenting the Plan initiated formulary strategy which proposed to exclude the reference product Stelara and the biosimilar product Pyzchiva (Cordavis mfr), and downtier the interchangeable biosimilar product, Yesintek. Committee members participated in a robust discussion with opinions both in favor of, as well as opposed to, requiring members move to a biosimilar product. A deferral of voting until later in the presentation was determined and the Plan proceeded to the next topic.

*Formulary Evaluation Framework and Value Added Therapy*

Dr. Vogel then presented the Plan's goal of developing a formulary evaluation framework which is specific, defined, and would consistently apply standards to how proposed formulary changes are evaluated. The framework would promote the inclusion of formulary decisions based on value added therapy. In addition, the framework would guide the Plan towards the financial position to provide member access to coverage of promising pipeline therapies, many of which have significant associated costs.

Committee members expressed concern in the prior authorization and appeals process overall. The Plan acknowledges the importance of allowing a pathway of coverage for members, who are deemed so by their providers, access to the reference product. Additionally, members requested a process which would allow prior use exemptions/access to coverage for medications with indications deemed eligible by the committee.

*Biosimilar Strategy*

Dr. Vogel returned to the previous discussion, and asked for committee members to vote on the Plan proposed biosimilar strategy as presented. The committee voted to approve the Plan's recommendation as presented, with changes effective January 1, 2026

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*Formulary Updates*

Dr. Vogel then presented the proposed Quarterly Formulary Updates by CVS Caremark which were deferred from the August 20, 2025 meeting. This included additions to the formulary and associated utilization management criteria.

Dr. Vogel identified two new molecular entities that were being removed from CVS's New-to-Market block and would be available as covered products, along with the utilization management policies that went along with the new products. The new molecular entities being added to the formulary are as follows: EMBLAVEO and FRUZAQLA.

There was no opposition from the Committee members, so the formulary additions were approved as presented.

The Committee also approved proposed utilization management for the new entities including SGM and Specialty QL for FRUZAQLA. One of the Committee members, Dr. Timothy Ashley, provided expert findings on the narrow clinical window for usage of Emblaveo, and as such, a custom PA corresponding with these findings will be applied to Emblaveo.

*Adjourn*

The Chairperson addressed the Committee by thanking them for their service and informed them that the Plan would be in touch about scheduling the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 P.M. (EST)

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Jenny Vogel, Chair