

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee Procedures

In November 2003, the Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee appointed by Commissioner Gilbertson began reviewing pharmaceutical classes to identify drugs that are clinically and therapeutically equivalent, and potentially cost less than other drugs in the same class.

- The P&T Committee Website provides public notice of the drug classes to be considered, drugs adopted, public notices, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, drug review schedules, clinical submission forms, committee membership and Department of Health and Social Service contact individuals.
<http://hss.state.ak.us/dhcs/PDL/>.
- Additional meeting notices are published in Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks newspapers at least ten days prior to the meeting.
- Clinical Submission forms are posted on the P&T Website for pharmaceutical companies to submit drug information for review and consideration by the P&T Committee. These must be completed and sent in electronic format to the Clinical Account Manager for First Health by the Clinical Submission date as noted on the P&T Website.
- Physicians, other prescribers, health care providers or pharmacists are encouraged to write to the P&T Committee in advance of P&T meetings. Any correspondence received by the Clinical Submission Date will be forwarded to the P&T Committee in advance of the P&T meeting. This correspondence may be faxed to 907-561-1684 or emailed to david.campana@alaska.gov
- The Department's contractor, First Health Services Corporation, prepares a pharmaceutical analysis of each drug to be reviewed and compiles the Clinical Submission forms for P&T Committee review.
- At least three weeks prior to the meeting, P&T Committee members are provided packets containing analytical information on the drug classes under review. The Committee members review the materials in preparation for the meeting.
- Following the call to order and roll call, of the P&T Committee meeting, local health care providers may testify on the drug classes under review. Each presenter is allowed three (3) minutes to testify.
- Industry representatives wishing to testify on the drug classes under review indicate their intent by registering through the Department by the Thursday prior to the meeting or at the door, listing name, title, company or agency they are representing. Each manufacturer is allowed one presenter per class and the presenter is allowed three (3) minutes to testify.

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- Local health care providers or industry representatives may register by the Thursday before the P&T meeting by calling 907-334-2418.
- At the end of public testimony the P&T Committee members are provided time to ask questions or make comments to the public presenters.
- After testimony from registered parties is completed, the P&T Committee reviews the individual drug class to determine clinical efficacy and therapeutic equivalency or if there is a class effect for the drugs in the reviewed class.
- The First Health Service Corporation and Department of Health and Social Services Pharmacists also provide clinical information on each drug class, along with guidelines and scientific evidence on equivalency of drugs.
- The P&T Committee also takes under consideration the medical necessity exclusions or special criteria of a single or multiple agents.
- After testimony and discussion, P&T Committee members vote on each drug class. At least 51% of P&T committee quorum must vote to adopt the class as part of preferred drug list.
- The Clinical Account Manager of First Health Services Corporation and Department staff review the Committee adopted drug classes, identify which drugs are included in the multi-state supplemental rebate agreement, and report their findings to the P&T Committee.
- Recommendations made by the P&T Committee are considered final and are not reviewed again until new clinical information is presented to the P&T Committee or the annual re-review. Re-review of PDL classes will commence after classes have been on the PDL for approximately one year. The P&T Committee will continue meeting on at least a quarterly basis to review new drugs and new research as it becomes available.
- Breakthrough drugs in a class containing preferred drugs may be addressed upon a call for a special meeting of the P&T Committee outside of the normally scheduled meeting.