



INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE
National Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee
**** Summer 2020 NPTC Meeting (UPDATE)****

-July 2020-

The Indian Health Service (IHS) National Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (NPTC) held its Summer 2020 virtual meeting on July 28-29, 2020. All 12 IHS Areas were represented. CAPT Stephen “Miles” Rudd, MD (IHS Office of Quality) served as a consultant and lecturer to the Committee. Affiliates from the Department of Defense, Veterans Administration, and U.S. Coast Guard provided information on formulary updates, clinical experiences, and future meeting topics from their respective agencies. The NPTC values the relationships with its field experts, subject matter experts, and federal partners and appreciates the opportunity to host this meeting through the Oklahoma City Area IHS Office.

The meeting agenda included reviews of recent HIV guidelines and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, Nicotine Dependence, as well as long-acting and implantable buprenorphine products. Also on the agenda was a panel review of the impact of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic (CoVID-19) on the IHS, past and present action(s) taken by the NPTC to address the pandemic, and emerging therapies to combat CoVID-19.

The resulting action(s) from the NPTC meeting were as follows:

1. A clinical review of HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) therapy and guidelines was provided to the Committee, focusing on recent updates in guidelines and available pharmacotherapies. *Currently, for HIV PrEP, emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (Truvada®) is named to the IHS National Core Formulary (NCF). Additionally, the NCF contains the combination products bicitegravir/emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide and dolutegravir/abacavir/lamivudine for treatment of HIV infection. Lastly, raltegravir plus emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (Truvada®) is listed on the NCF for both HIV post-exposure prophylaxis and as second-line therapy in HIV treatment when contraindications exist to preferred initial HIV therapies.* Following an in-depth review of HHS Perinatal HIV Guidelines and in concert with agency-specific procurement and pharmacovigilance data, the NPTC voted to (1) **REMOVE the branded name “Truvada®”** and (2) **ADD dolutegravir** for HIV treatment in pregnant patients to the NCF.
2. A therapeutic review of Nicotine Dependence was delivered with emphasis on e-cigarettes and vaping trends within the U.S. *Currently, bupropion, nicotine replacement therapy (all forms) and varenicline are listed on the NCF.* Guidelines from the 2020 Report to the Surgeon General, various HHS statistical reports (MMWR), and numerous meta-analyses were detailed. IHS data of pharmacoepidemiologic and drug utilization trends/pricing were used to add perspective to the review. Ultimately, the NPTC made **no modifications to the NCF.**
3. A drug class review of Buprenorphine products (long-acting and implantable) in Opioid Use Disorder was also provided. Literature presented included findings from device-specific comparative reviews while practical guidance from the Cochrane Library, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Institute for Clinical and Economic review, and PlosOne was appraised. Agency-specific drug procurement, utilization and pharmacoepidemiologic data were also reviewed. Following the evaluation, the NPTC made **no modifications to the NCF.**

4. A panel review of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic (CoVID-19) was presented to the NPTC, which included several areas of focus, namely (1) CoVID-19's impact on the IHS, (2) the NPTC response, actions and deliverables to the agency related to CoVID-19, (3) an update of emerging therapies and (4) a review of NPTC's pharmacovigilance efforts during this time period. NPTC member and guest discussion as well as external federal partner input were valuable to the committee. NPTC anticipates regular reviews/updates to be provided quarterly.

***The next NPTC meeting will be the Fall 2020 Meeting scheduled for November 3-4th, 2020. The meeting agenda will include reviews of (1) Hepatic Encephalopathy, (2) Anti-arrhythmic Agents in Atrial Fibrillation, (3) Long-acting Antipsychotic Agents, (4) Janus Kinase and Interleukin 12/23 Inhibitors, (5) Biosimilars in Rheumatoid Arthritis and (6) a CoVID-19 Update.*

For more information about the NPTC or the National Core Formulary, please visit the [NPTC website](#).