

046: 144 Insurance and Reimbursement in Pharmacy
College of Pharmacy

Spring 2004
Credit hours: 2



Class meeting schedule: Tuesdays and Fridays from 12:30 to 2:20 in 100A Pharmacy.
Class meets from 1/20/04 through 3/12/04.

Course Coordinator: Julie Urmie

Office location: S519 Pharmacy

Telephone number: 335-8616

e-mail: julie-ganther@uiowa.edu

Office hours: 3:30 to 4:30 on Tuesdays and by appointment

How to contact: BRIEF questions may be sent to the instructor via email, but generally students should come to office hours or make an appointment for answers to questions or to receive additional assistance.

Teaching Assistant: Don Klepser

Office location: S532 Pharmacy

Telephone number: 335-7960

e-mail: donald-klepser@uiowa.edu

Office hours: 11:30-12:30 on Fridays and by appointment

I, Professor Urmie, would like to hear from anyone who has a disability that may require some modification of the seating, testing or other class requirements. Please notify me during the first week of class so that we may work with the Office of Student Disability Services to make appropriate arrangements. The Office of Student Disability Services is located in 3100 Burge Hall and the phone number is 335-1462.

Brief course description:

This course is intended to be taken as a PSE selective in the PharmD curriculum. Students will obtain advanced level knowledge about different types of insurance coverage for prescription drugs, models of reimbursement for pharmacist services and current pharmacy insurance and reimbursement issues.

Prerequisites:

046:130 or consent of instructor

Course goals:

Health insurance has a significant influence on patient and health care provider decisions about the use of prescription drugs. The course goals are to provide student pharmacists with a better understanding of the complex and varied types of insurance coverage for prescription drugs, help them understand how drug benefits are managed, and increase their awareness of the many current policy issues related to insurance and reimbursement for prescription drugs.

Learning objectives:

1. To understand the design and management of prescription drug insurance benefits.
2. To understand and evaluate drug benefits and reimbursement mechanisms for prescription drugs and pharmacist services in public and private insurance programs.
3. To be able to understand and discuss current policy issues related to insurance and reimbursement in pharmacy.

Methods of instruction:

Each class period will be divided into two 50 minutes sessions with a 10 minute break in between. Generally, the first session will be a lecture format and the second session will be more of a discussion format or have a small group activity. There will be three designated "discussion" sessions where the class will be divided in half and attend either the first or second half of class.

Instructional materials:

- Required text(s): None
- Required course packet(s): Readings will be posted on the course web site
- Other useful references and web sites:

www.kaisernetwork.org (click on Health Policy Daily Reports)

www.kff.org (Kaiser Foundation website – excellent source of information on health policy issues)

www.nytimes.org (New York Times)

www.wsj.com (Wall Street Journal)

www.washingtonpost.com (Washington Post)

www.nacds.org (National Association of Chain Drug Stores)

www.ncpanet.org (National Community Pharmacists Association)

www.aphanet.org (American Pharmacists Association)

www.iarx.org (Iowa Pharmacy Association)

www.cms.gov (government agency that runs Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP)

www.Medicare.gov (consumer information on Medicare)

www.ncsl.org/programs/health/drugaid.htm (Description of state prescription drug state assistance programs and discount cards)

www.needymeds.com (Information about Pharmaceutical Manufacturer Assistance Programs)

www.iowapriority.org Information about the Iowa Priority Drug Discount Program

"Prescription Drug Trends: A Chartbook Update." DH Kreling et al. Kaiser Family Foundation, November 2001.

<http://www.kff.org/rxdrugs/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=13796> (source of facts about prescription drug utilization and insurance)

What you can do to improve your learning in this course:

- Do the assigned readings prior to class and take notes in class. If you are having trouble learning the subject matter, set up a meeting with Prof. Urmie or Don Klepser to discuss learning strategies for the course.

Class schedule, topic list, and assigned readings:*

Session	Date	Instructor	Topic	Readings and Assignments
1	1/20	Urmie	(1) Course Overview and History of Reimbursement Issues (2) Prescription Drug Pricing – Impact of Third Parties	1) "Executive Summary: Pharmaceutical Discounts Under Federal Law: State Program Opportunities." Von Oehsen et al. <i>AJHSP</i> , 2003;60(6):551-553.
2	1/23	Urmie	(1) Drug Discount Cards (2) Pharmaceutical Assistance programs	1) "Prescription Drug Discount Cards: Current Programs and Issues." Kaiser Report, Feb. 2002 2) "Retail Pharmacy Mulls Rx Discount Cards." <i>Drug Topics</i> , Jan 12, 2004.
3	1/27	Urmie	(1) and (2) Prescription Drug Benefits in Medicaid and SCHIP	1) "Medicaid and Prescription Drugs: An Overview." Kaiser Report, Oct. 2000
4	1/30	Urmie	(1) Prescription Drug Benefits in Medicaid and SCHIP (2) Prescription Drug Insurance Options for Seniors	Assignment 1 due
5	2/3	Urmie	(1) and (2) Medicare Drug Benefit	1) "Prescription Drug Coverage for Medicare

				Beneficiaries: A Summary of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003." Kaiser Report, Dec. 2003 2) "How will the Medicare act of 2003 affect you?" <i>Drug Topics</i> , Jan. 12, 2004.
6	2/6	Klepser	Medicare Drug Benefit (Discussion)	Assignment 2 due
7	2/10	Urmie/Dawn Moore (Assistant Director of Pharmacy – UIHC)	(1) Prospective Payment Systems (2) Third Party Reimbursement in Hospital Pharmacy	1)"Challenges and Opportunities for Medicare's Original Prospective Payment System." Worzala et al. <i>Health Affairs</i> , 2003;22(6): 175-182
8	2/13	Urmie	Exam I	2 Current Issue Write-ups Due
9	2/17	Karen Ferro (Pharmacy Director, Wellmark)	(1) Managing a Drug Benefit – Insurer Perspective (2) Career options in insurance	TBA
10	2/20	Urmie	(1) Drug Benefit Management (2) Current PBM Issues	(1)"The Ethics of Pharmacy Benefit Management." Burton et al. <i>Health Affairs</i> , 2001;20(5):150-163. (2) "Critics Attack Secret Deals by Middlemen to Buy Drugs." Freudenheim. <i>NY Times</i> , Dec. 20 2003.
11	2/24	Urmie	(1) Evaluating Third Party Reimbursement in community pharmacies. (2) Current Issues in Third Party Reimbursement	Ganther "Third Party Payer Considerations" Chapter 15. In <u>Pharmacy Management</u> , In Press.
12	2/27	Urmie	Evaluating Third Party Reimbursement in Community Pharmacies (Discussion)	Assignment 3 due
13	3/2	McDonough	(1) and (2)	TBA

14	3/5	Urmie	Reimbursement for Pharmacist Services Costs and Benefits of Third Party Reimbursement for Pharmacist Service (Discussion)	"Third Party Reimbursement for Pharmacist Services: Why has it been so difficult to achieve and is it really the answer for pharmacy?" Ganther. JAPhA, 2002;42(6):875-879. Assignment 4 due
15	3/9	Urmie	(1) Current Issues in Reimbursement for Pharmacist Services (2) TBA	TBA
16	3/12	Urmie	Exam II	2 Current Issue Write-ups Due

* **Note that the list of readings is preliminary. The final list of readings for each lecture will be posted on the course website.**

Evaluation of student performance

- How your grade will be determined in this course:

Point Distribution (total of 300 points):

Exam I	100 points
Exam II	100 points
Assignments	80 points
Current Issue Write-Ups	20 points

Grading Criteria: (Decimals of ≥ 0.5 will be rounded up – e.g. 92.5 would be rounded to 93)

Percentage	Minimum Grade	Percentage	Minimum Grade
98 to 100	A+	78 to 79	C+
93 to 97	A	73 to 77	C
90 to 92	A-	70 to 72	C-
88 to 89	B+	60 to 69	D
83 to 87	B	>60	F
80 to 82	B-		

Assignments: (All assignments are 20 points each)

- Assignment 1 – Linking Patients with Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs
- Assignment 2 – Medicare Drug Benefit
- Assignment 3 - Pro Forma Analysis

Assignment 4 – Pharmacist Service Reimbursement

Current Issue Write-ups: (5 points each)

The purpose of these write-ups is to expose you to current issues related to insurance and reimbursement in pharmacy. Four write-ups must be completed by the end of class. Two are due by the first exam and the other two are due by the second exam. For each write-up you must: 1) find and read a lay article on a topic related to insurance and reimbursement in pharmacy and 2) Complete and submit a current issues write-up form that is available on the course web site. Also attach a copy of the article or a link to the article. A lay article means an article that is published in a newspaper or lay magazine (e.g. Time, Newsweek). Pharmacy journal articles are not an acceptable source of articles.

Exam Format:

The exams will be a mixture of multiple choice and short answer/essay questions. The final exam will emphasize material from the second half of the course but is cumulative in the sense that questions may integrate material learned in the first half of the course.

Expectations and course policies:

- Expectations for attendance and participation:

Attending class and participating in class discussion is an important part of the course. Students are expected to complete any assigned readings and study questions prior to class and come to class prepared to respond to questions and participate in discussion.

- Missed examinations:

Students are required to take exams at the scheduled time unless there are extenuating circumstances such as illness, death in the family, or other emergency situation. In the event of an extenuating circumstance the instructor should be notified, if possible prior to the scheduled exam time, and a make-up exam will be arranged.

- Late or missed assignments:

Assignments and papers are due in class on the date specified on the assignment. Assignments and papers received after class time are considered late and will be penalized 5 percent per day unless the instructor is notified of extenuating circumstances as outlined under missed examinations.

If a problem or dispute arises in connection with faculty actions in this course, you should take the following actions in order:

- 1. Contact the faculty member and attempt to resolve the issue directly.**
- 2. If your complaint is not resolved, contact the course coordinator, if applicable**.**

- 3. If your complaint is still not resolved, you may contact the appropriate division head.**
- 4. If your complaint is still not resolved, you may contact the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.**
- 5. If your complaint is still not resolved, you may contact the Dean of the College of Pharmacy.**

A full explanation of the College of Pharmacy and UI procedures for disputes is in the PharmD program Student Handbook on the College of Pharmacy web site.

***If your complaint concerns accommodation for a disability and it is not resolved after contacting the course coordinator, you should then contact the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.



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