

1 **Washington Vaccine Association**
2 **Operations Committee Meeting**
3 **October 26, 2023; 12:30-1:30 p.m. PT**
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5 **I. Attendance.** Participating in all or part of the meeting by telephone were the following individuals:
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7 <u>Committee Members</u>	18 Cheryl Rairigh, Regence
8 Michelle Baker, Zenith	19 Jennifer Simonsen, Kaiser
9 Diana Baxter, Cambia	20
10 Tracey Cardillo, Cigna	21 <u>WVA</u>
11 Tiffany Conley, Regence	22 Julia G. Zell, Esq., Executive Director, Chair
12 Delphia Dent Leffew, Cigna	23 Cheri Cagle, Stakeholder Liaison
13 Cathy Falanga, Aetna	24
14 Tawnya Flyberg, Premera	25 <u>Helms & Company, Inc.</u>
15 Janel Jorgenson, Washington Department of Health	26 Patrick Miller, MPH, Administrative Director
16 Kara Manley, United	27 Ashley Ithal, MPH, Project Support Leader
17 Valerie Oliver, Premera	28 Leslie Walker, CPA, Mason+Rich, PA

29
30 **I. Summary of Actions Taken and/or Recommended**
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32 Actions Taken (votes adopted)

- 33 i. To approve April 25, 2023, meeting minutes.
34 ii. To approve future Assessment Grid additions.
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36 **II. Welcome and Introductions**
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38 At 12:32 p.m., Ms. Zell called the meeting to order and provided a notice of recording.
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40 **III. Calendar Consent Items**
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42 Ms. Zell asked for a motion to approve the April 25, 2023 meeting minutes. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it
43 was unanimously
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45 **VOTED: To approve April 25, 2023 meeting minutes.**
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47 **IV. Operations Updates**
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49 COVID Implementation

50 Ms. Zell gave an update on the COVID commercialization and stated that initial concerns of the dosage-based
51 assessment process have been alleviated after a review of payer data. Mr. Miller reported that for the most part, COVID
52 DBAs are being submitted with the correct grid amounts. Mr. Miller stated that there are a few payers with lower-
53 than-expected DBA volumes and he has reached out to them. He stated that the first COVID-related mailing was sent
54 out in mid-September to providers and payers, and a second provider mailing was sent in mid-October.
55

56 RSV (nirsevimab) Funding

57 Ms. Zell reminded the Committee that in late September the WVA Board approved the use of reserve funds for the
58 state's purchase of the new RSV monoclonal antibody, nirsevimab. To be able to assess for nirsevimab, the WVA is
59 joining with the Department of Health to pursue a technical "fix" to the Association's enabling statute to update the
60 definition of "vaccine." To advance this work, the WVA has engaged a lobbyist. Mr. Miller stated that the WVA
61 should know by the end of March 2024 whether the statute has been changed. He provided an overview of the WA
62 Department of Health's (DOH) proposed RSV utilization projections which vary from approximately \$10M-20M/year
63 based on projected uptake scenarios.
64

65 Future Assessment Grids/New Vaccine Pipeline

66 Mr. Miller reviewed the costs of vaccines added in the past year and stated that the costs are much higher than
67 historically seen which will have impacts on future assessment rates. Mr. Miller reported that Abrysvo™ (for maternal
68 RSV), Penbraya™ (for Meningococcal B), and Jynneos® (for Mpox) have been both FDA approved and ACIP VFC
69 recommended. It is anticipated that pricing will be known by the end of the year so that they may be added to the grid
70 for early 2024. Ms. Zell added that ideally the WVA would add future off cycle grid additions in January of each year,
71 and continue with the annual grid updates on July 1. Mr. Miller added that the July 2024 grid may see up to a 30%
72 rate increase to build back reserves. He reported that modeling has begun using known assumptions.

73
74 Mr. Miller stated that the WVA is assembling a taskforce to determine the best way for hospitals to bill DBAs for
75 nirsevimab. Ms. Dent and Ms. Manley volunteered to join the taskforce. Ms. Zell stated that if others are interested,
76 please reach out to her.

77
78 Ms. Jorgenson provided an update on nirsevimab ordering. There were 135 providers who placed orders before CDC
79 shut down ordering due to supply chain issues. The CDC is currently distributing nirsevimab based on allocations to
80 those states that have either not ordered nirsevimab or ordered a low supply.

81
82 Ms. Zell asked for a motion to approve the addition of Abrysvo™ (for maternal RSV for those under 19), Penbraya™
83 (for Meningococcal B), and Jynneos® (for Mpox for those under 19) to the Assessment Grid. Discussion occurred and
84 a minor correction was made to the vote. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

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86 **VOTED: Vote to approve assessment grid additions of Abrysvo™ (for maternal RSV for those under**
87 **19), Penbraya™ (for Meningococcal B), and Jynneos® (for Mpox for those under 19) with corrections**
88 **at the meeting.**

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90 **V. Closing**

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92 Ms. Zell thanked everyone for their input and guidance today, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:22 pm PT.