



GHAPP

Gastroenterology & Hepatology
Advanced Practice Providers

EIGHTH ANNUAL

National Conference

SEPTEMBER 4-6, 2025

Red Rock Resort & Spa • **Las Vegas, NV**



ANNENBERG CENTER
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Imparting knowledge. Improving patient care.

Jointly provided by the Annenberg Center for Health Sciences at Eisenhower
and Gastroenterology & Hepatology Advanced Practice Providers.



GHAPP

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Advanced Practice Providers

Breaking Payer Barriers

Jeff Dunn & Ed Pezalla

Experience

Ed Pezalla, MD, MPH



Ed Pezalla, MD, MPH

- Founder and CEO, Enlightenment Bioconsult
- Payer strategy consultant for biotech and pharma
- Former VP, Pharmaceutical Policy and Strategy, Aetna
- Active in MIT Center for Biomedical Innovation NEWDIGS and FOCUS projects
- Member of the first class of Scholars-in-Residence, Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy

Experience

Jeff Dunn, PharmD, MBA



Jeff Dunn, PharmD, MBA

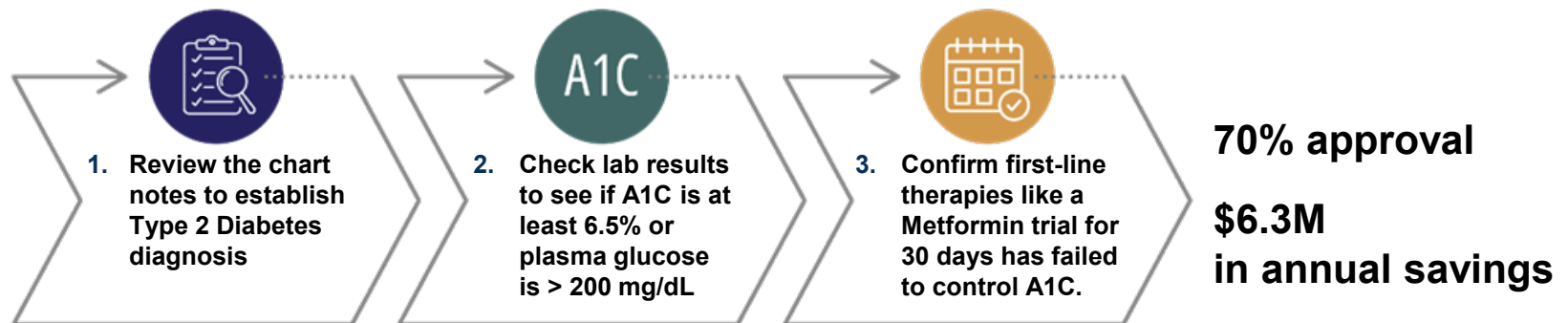
- President & CEO,
Cooperative Benefits Group
- Board Member AMCP
- Former Roles:
 - Haven
 - MagellanRx
 - VeridicusRx
 - SelectHealth

Weight Loss Medication Management Strategies

Balanced Approach. Prior Authorization. Step Therapy.

- **Thoughtful & Intentional Access:** Supports appropriate use of high-cost GLP-1s aligned with meaningful health outcomes
- **Balanced Utilization Strategy:** Ensure clinical appropriateness while managing cost and aligning with real-world utilization trends.
- **Whole Health Integration:** Partner-driven model includes behavior change programs and physician-supervised lifestyle plans to sustain outcomes.

Review Each Request to Evaluate the Full Clinical Context



Case Study for Pharmacy Benefit: Linzess

Oral drug	Pharmacy Benefit
Tier	Preferred Brand (copay \$30-50)
PA	For FDA indications
Step Therapy	None

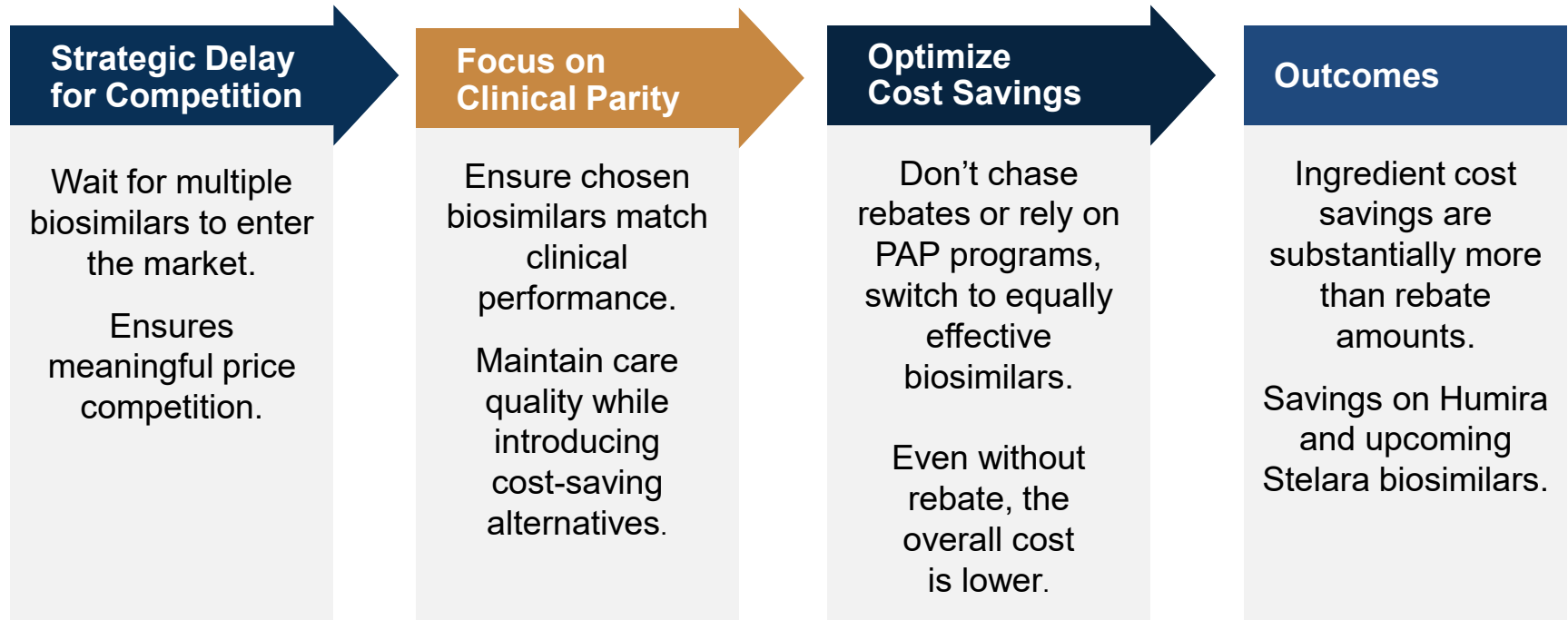
Pharmacy PA: Linzess

- FDA-approved Indications
 - Irritable bowel syndrome with constipation (IBS-C) in adults
 - Chronic idiopathic constipation (CIC) in adults
 - Functional constipation (FC) in pediatric patients 6 to 17 years of age
- Chronic Idiopathic Constipation (CIC)
- Authorization may be granted when the requested drug is being prescribed for the treatment of chronic idiopathic constipation (CIC) in an adult patient.
- Functional Constipation (FC)
- Authorization may be granted when the requested drug is being prescribed for the treatment of functional constipation (FC) when the following criteria is met:
 - The request is for a pediatric patient 6 to 17 years of age.
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome with Constipation (IBS-C)
- Authorization may be granted when the requested drug is being prescribed for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome with constipation (IBS-C) in an adult patient.
- Duration of Approval (DOA)
- 843-A: DOA: 12 months
- 1023-A: DOA: 36 months
- Place of Service:
- Outpatient



Biosimilar Strategy

Lower Costs. Less Cash Outlay. No Waiting on Rebates.



Annual Savings for Client X: **\$1,160,910** on Humira claims

Case Study for Medical Drug: Infliximab

IV drug	Medical Benefit
Tier	No tiering in medical, co-insurance 20%
PA	For FDA indications, renewal based on improvement Requires GI prescribing or consultation
Step Therapy	May use only preferred biosimilars Avsola, Inflectra, Renflexis
Site of care	Site of care policy applies, must be administered in lowest cost appropriate site of care

Medical PA: Infliximab

Preferred Products: Avsola, Inflectra, Renflexis

- Crohn's disease (CD)
 - For treatment of moderately to severely active CD
- Continuation of therapy

For all members (including new members) who are using the requested medication for moderately to severely active Crohn's disease and who achieve or maintain remission; or

For all members (including new members) who are using the requested medication for moderately to severely active Crohn's disease and who achieve or maintain a positive clinical response as evidenced by low disease activity or improvement in signs and symptoms of the condition when there is improvement in any of the following from baseline:

[There follows a list of common symptoms and imaging findings. Any one improved will meet criteria]
- Ulcerative colitis (UC)
 - For treatment of moderately to severely active UC
- Continuation of therapy

For all members (including new members) who are using the requested medication for moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis and who achieve or maintain remission; or

For all members (including new members) who are using the requested medication for moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis and who achieve or maintain a positive clinical response as evidenced by low disease activity or improvement in signs and symptoms of the condition when there is improvement in any of the following from baseline:

[There follows a list of common symptoms and imaging findings. Any one improved will meet criteria]

Contact Info

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