

MAKENA UTILIZATION IN MISSISSIPPI MEDICAID

BACKGROUND

Makena® (hydroxyprogesterone caproate) is a progestin indicated to reduce the risk of preterm birth in women with a history of single child spontaneous preterm birth.¹ Makena was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in February 2011.² Prior to its approval, a compounded version of the active ingredient, 17-hydroxyprogesterone caproate (17P), was available to Medicaid beneficiaries whose physician requested the drug through compounding pharmacies. In June 2012, following the release of Makena, the FDA released an updated statement on the compounding of 17P.³ The FDA recommended using an FDA-approved drug product, such as Makena, instead of a compounded drug except when there is a specific medical need (e.g., an allergy) that cannot be met by the approved drug. FDA is not aware of any scientifically reliable evidence demonstrating that compounding 17P without a preservative or in an oil base different than the one used in Makena produces a significant difference for an identifiable group of patients (aside from the rare patient who is known to be allergic to either the preservative or the oil base). Currently, the MS Division of Medicaid (DOM) does not cover for compounded prescriptions except for hyperalimentation, as defined in DOM's Administrative Code.⁴

Many obstetricians believe that utilization of Makena is critical in reducing preterm birth rates in at-risk pregnant beneficiaries. Ensuring access to Makena for women with a singleton pregnancy who have a history of singleton spontaneous preterm birth is important for assuring appropriate care and maximizing outcomes. Concerns regarding Makena access and lengthy delays in obtaining the product have been expressed to the Division of Medicaid (DOM). As noted in Senate Bill (SB) 2836, signed by the Governor after the Mississippi Legislature 2018 Regular Session, "It is the intent of the Legislature that the division and any managed care entity described in subsection (H) of this section encourage the use of Alpha-Hydroxyprogesterone Caproate (17P) to prevent recurrent preterm birth."

METHODS

MS-DUR conducted a retrospective analysis of Makena utilization among Mississippi Medicaid beneficiaries using Mississippi Medicaid FFS and CCO pharmacy and medical claims from January 1, 2017 through January 31, 2018. A concern expressed from providers was not being able to start treatment as soon as desired due to delays in obtaining Makena after placing an order with the pharmacy. Claims data cannot be used to determine the actual time interval between a provider ordering and receiving Makena. However, this time lag can be estimated by examining the number of days between the first pharmacy claim for each beneficiary and the first medical claim for administration of the product. MS-DUR examined medical claims with either a J-code for administering Makena or a CPT code for therapeutic administration of an injectable product MS-DUR also identified the major specialty pharmacies involved in distribution of Makena to Medicaid providers. Phone interviews were conducted with, AMAG Pharmaceuticals, the

¹ Makena [package insert]. AMAG Pharmaceuticals, Waltham, MA; Accessed March 2018.

² U.S. Food and Drug Administration. FDA Statement on Makena. March 2011. Accessed March 2018

³ U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Updated FDA Statement on Compounded Version of Hydroxyprogesterone Caproate (the Active Ingredient in Makena).

<https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/PharmacyCompounding/ucm402614.htm> June 2012. Accessed March 2018

⁴ MS-DOM Administrative Code Part 214. <https://medicaid.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Admin-Code-Part-214.pdf>. Accessed May 2018

manufacturer and with selected specialty pharmacies in order to explore the ordering/distribution process and to determine what problems, if any, existed in the timely acquisition of Makena.

RESULTS

Table 1 shows the number of paid pharmacy claims per month for Makena by pharmacy program. No paid claims for the compounded product, 17P, were present in the data analyzed. Although Makena has been covered by Medicaid since it was FDA approved, it was not listed in the Universal Preferred Drug List (UPDL) until April 2017. At that time it was added as a preferred product in the Miscellaneous Brand/Generic category in order to encourage use. As shown in Table 1, there were no pharmacy claims for Makena prior to April 2017 in the fee-for-service (FFS) or United Healthcare (UHC) programs. There were pharmacy claims before this time in Magnolia (MAG). Utilization in all three programs increased significantly after April 2017.

TABLE 1: Makena Pharmacy Prescriptions by Month and Pharmacy Program

Month	Pharmacy Program			Total
	FFS	UHC	MAG	
Jan-17	0	0	26	26
Feb-17	0	0	24	24
Mar-17	0	0	26	26
Apr-17	1	16	24	41
May-17	5	34	47	86
Jun-17	10	41	39	90
Jul-17	12	37	40	89
Aug-17	20	49	47	116
Sep-17	12	54	39	105
Oct-17	16	54	46	116
Nov-17	17	46	39	102
Dec-17	16	42	40	98
Jan-18	12	33	49	94

NOTE: Makena was added to the UPDL effective 4/1/2017 as a preferred product in the Miscellaneous Brand/Generic category. Its coverage status was made retroactively effective as of 1/1/2017.

Table 2 provides utilization information for all beneficiaries beginning treatment with Makena between January 1, 2017 and September 1, 2017. If treatment was started at the earliest time indicated in the Makena labeling (16 weeks gestation) and given for the recommended period of time (37 weeks gestation), beneficiaries could receive up to 21 doses. As shown in Table 2, women treated with Makena averaged 12 doses (12 weeks of treatment).

TABLE 2: Utilization Summary for Beneficiaries Initiating Treatment With Makena Before September 1, 2017 <i>(January 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018)</i>				
	Pharmacy Program			
	FFS	UHC	MAG	Total
TOTAL number of beneficiaries	12	85	129	226
Number of Prescription Fills	1	7	12	36
	2	3	16	25
	3	0	19	15
	4	0	18	32
	5	2	15	20
	6+	0	5	1
	Mean	1.9	3.3	2.9
Number of Doses Dispensed	3 - 5	7	12	36
	6 - 10	3	17	26
	11 - 15	0	19	14
	16 - 21	2	32	52
	22 or more	0	5	1
	Mean	7.7	13.3	11.8
Age At Initiation of Makena Therapy	16 - 20 years old	2	4	9
	21 - 25 years old	4	31	46
	26 - 30 years old	4	33	39
	31 - 35 years old	2	13	25
	36 - 40 years old	0	3	10
	41 or more years old	0	1	0
	Mean	25.7	26.9	27.3

Table 3 shows the number of Makena prescriptions filled by each pharmacy. Almost half of the prescriptions were filled by Transcript Pharmacy in Jackson, MS. Transcript is the only specialty pharmacy in Mississippi designated for distribution of Makena by the manufacturer. The manufacturer directs orders to designated pharmacies when orders are initiated using their 800 number. Although the manufacturer tries to limit distribution to designated specialty pharmacies in order to assure appropriate patient management, they will ship Makena to other pharmacies when requested by payers or prescribers. Table 3 illustrates that almost half of Makena prescriptions were filled by Transcript Pharmacy. The remainder of prescriptions were primarily split between Briovarx in Columbus, MS (UHC's preferred specialty pharmacy) and Acariahealth Pharmacy in Slidell, LA (Magnolia's preferred specialty pharmacy).

TABLE 3: Number of Makena Claims Filled by Pharmacies				
<i>(January 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018)</i>				
Pharmacy	Pharmacy Program			
	FFS	UHC	MAG	Total
Transcript Pharmacy Inc - Jackson, Ms	95	165	204	464
Briovarx Llc - Columbus, Ms	3	208	12	223
Acariahealth Pharmacy Inc - Slidell, La	3	0	205	208
Caremark Inc - Bartlett, Tn	5	2	18	25
Accredo Health Group Inc - Memphis, Tn	4	0	14	18
Freds Westside Pharmacy Inc - Picayune, Ms	4	2	7	13
Picayune Drug Co Inc - Picayune, Ms	1	8	0	9
Walgreens # 11599 - Columbus, Ms	0	3	6	9
Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy L - Pittsburgh, Pa	1	0	5	6
Medicaid Provider Number 1370783	5	0	0	5
Freds Stores Of Tennessee Inc - Poplarville, Ms	0	0	5	5
Reeves Sain Drug Store Inc - Columbus, Ms	0	5	0	5
Proxsys Rx-Rush, Llc - Ocean Springs, Ms	0	4	0	4
Save Rite Pharmacy - Ocean Springs, Ms	0	4	0	4
Polks Crossgates Discounts Dru - Biloxi, Ms	0	3	0	3
Wal Mart Pharmacy 10-1346 - Ocean Springs, Ms	0	0	2	2
Wal-Mart Stores East Lp - Picayune, Ms	0	0	2	2
Bioscrip Pharmacy Inc - Memphis, Tn	0	1	0	1
Sartin Discount Drug's Inc - Gulfport, Ms	0	1	0	1
Pharmacy ID missing on claim	0	0	6	6

NOTE: Transcript Pharmacy is the specialty pharmacy designated by the manufacturer of Makena for distribution in Mississippi.

Table 4 shows the number of unique beneficiaries treated by prescribers initiating Makena therapy. Providers are grouped by clinic when possible. A total of 403 women were treated with Makena during the study period. Over half (216) were treated by providers in 11 practices. Using the clinic groupings that were identified, there were no more than 73 different practice locations involved in treatment of Medicaid beneficiaries with Makena.

TABLE 4: Number of Unique Beneficiaries Started on Makena*(January 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018)*

Practice / Physician		Pharmacy Program			
		FFS	UHC	MAG	Total
P & S Clinic Ob-Gyn - Amory, Ms	TOTAL	1	0	7	8
	Stephen Otey	0	0	1	1
	Duke Wood	1	0	1	2
	James Chaney	0	0	1	1
	Meredith Griffin	0	0	1	1
	Pamela Lacy	0	0	3	3
Kenyetta Brummitt - Batesville, Ms		0	0	1	1
Dimitri Yanez - Bay St Louis, Ms		0	1	0	1
Biloxi Regional Medical Center - Biloxi, Ms	TOTAL	3	2	2	7
	Courtney Meredith	2	1	1	4
	John Mallett	0	1	0	1
	Stephen Jones	1	0	1	2
Hebe Diaz - Biloxi, Ms		0	1	1	2
Brookhaven Ob-Gyn Assoc - Brookhaven, Ms	TOTAL	0	0	3	3
	Joey Sessums	0	0	1	1
	Leigh Gray	0	0	1	1
	William Rushing	0	0	1	1
Jennifer Hicks - Canton, Ms		0	1	0	1
The Woman's Clinic - Clarksdale, Ms	TOTAL	6	12	10	28
	Kimberly Fava	1	4	3	8
	Carie Cesare	0	2	1	3
	Charles Cesare	0	0	1	1
	Kushna Damallie	5	6	5	16
Linda Wright - Clarksdale, Ms		0	0	2	2
Bradley Baugh - Cleveland, Ms		2	2	4	8
Clay Hudson - Columbus, Ms		0	0	1	1
James Holzhauser - Columbus, Ms		1	0	2	3
Magnolia Physician Services - Corinth, Ms	TOTAL	3	2	2	7
	Jason Cesario	1	0	0	1
	Tiffany General	2	2	1	5
	Quinisha Logan	0	0	1	1
Valarie Alder - Corinth, Ms		0	1	0	1
Patrick Hsu - Corinth, Ms		0	1	0	1
Bridget Cahill - Ellisville, Ms		0	0	1	1
William Hood - Flowood, Ms		0	4	2	6
Womens Health Associates - Flowood, Ms	TOTAL	4	2	2	8
	Gregory Vance	1	1	1	3
	Kay Midler	3	0	0	3
	Shane Sims	0	0	1	1
John Cook - Flowood, Ms		0	0	1	1
Vanessa Givens - Germantown, Tn		1	0	0	1
James Beckham - Greenville, Ms		1	0	0	1
Delta Medical Group - Greenville, Ms	TOTAL	0	5	6	11
	Janice Adams	0	2	2	4
	Lakeisha Richardson	0	3	4	7
Greenwood Obstetrics & Gynecology Associates - Greenwood, MS	TOTAL	4	3	1	8
	Nneka Okezie-Okeh	1	0	1	2
	Tracey Mullins	3	2	0	5

TABLE 4: Number of Unique Beneficiaries Started on Makena (Continued)*(January 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018)*

Practice / Physician		Pharmacy Program			
		FFS	UHC	MAG	Total
Woman's Health Clinic of Grenada - Grenada, Ms	TOTAL	1	1	3	5
	Woman's Health Clinic of Grenada	0	1	0	1
	Gale Moore	1	0	3	4
Aimee Robinson - Grenada, Ms		1	0	0	1
Wendy Shaw - Gulfport, Ms		0	1	2	3
Gulfport Obstetrical & Gynecol - Gulfport, Ms	TOTAL	1	4	5	10
	Ashley Dean- Reaves	0	0	1	1
	Jacob Lassiter	0	0	2	2
	David Taylor	1	3	2	6
	Kathrine Hicks	0	1	0	1
Woman's Clinic - Gulfport, MS	TOTAL	2	4	2	8
	Keith Goodfellow	1	0	0	1
	John Pappas	0	2	0	2
	Thomas Lehman	1	0	1	2
	Shahira Hanna	0	2	1	3
Hattiesburg Clinic ObGyn - Hattiesburg, Ms	TOTAL	5	3	5	13
	Amanda Sellers	0	0	1	1
	Benjamin Moore	1	0	2	3
	Deanna Stewart	0	0	1	1
	Hilton Gillespie	1	1	0	2
	Jeffrey Hudson	0	1	1	2
	Libby Kot	0	1	0	1
	Louis Benton	3	0	0	3
Shantele Hinton - Hattiesburg, Ms		1	0	0	1
Traci Suber - Hattiesburg, Ms		1	0	0	1
Womens Pavilion Of South Mississippi - Hattiesburg, Ms	TOTAL	5	7	8	20
	Eldred Wiser	1	0	1	2
	Joseph Mcintire	0	1	1	2
	Joseph Washburne	0	2	2	4
	Samuel Cole	2	3	1	6
	Eugene Shannon	2	0	1	3
	Jana Keith	0	1	2	3
East Lakeland Ob-Gyn Assoc - Jackson, Ms	TOTAL	2	1	1	4
	Shani Meck	1	0	0	1
	William Bush	1	0	0	1
	Ashley Canizaro	0	1	0	1
	Natasha Hardeman	0	0	1	1
University Medical Center - Jackson, Ms	TOTAL	11	20	28	59
	George Ball	0	0	1	1
	Sarah Novotny	4	10	11	25
	Charlotte Peavie	0	0	2	2
	Amber Shiflett	1	1	0	2
	Elizabeth Lutz	1	0	0	1
	Jermaine Gray	0	1	3	4
	Lindsey Turner	1	0	1	2
	Michelle Owens	3	5	8	16
	Rachael Morris	1	1	1	3
	Rebecca Bates	0	1	1	2
Sheila Bouldin	0	1	0	1	
River Oaks Hospital - Jackson, Ms	TOTAL	4	3	7	14
	Robert Naef	4	1	2	7
	Walter Wolfe	0	2	0	2
	Michael Livingston	0	0	5	5

TABLE 4: Number of Unique Beneficiaries Started on Makena (Continued)*(January 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018)*

Practice / Physician		Pharmacy Program			
		FFS	UHC	MAG	Total
South Central Regional Medical - Laurel, Ms	TOTAL	0	0	4	4
	Jennifer Roberts	0	0	3	3
	Sonja Johnson	0	0	1	1
Robert Desantis - Laurel, Ms		0	0	2	2
Stephanie Gong - Madison, Ms		0	0	1	1
Cynthia Bean - Madison, Ms		1	0	3	4
The Womens Health Center - McComb, MS	TOTAL	4	3	4	11
	Kevin Richardson	1	0	1	2
	Anh Vu	1	0	1	2
	Louise Gombako- Amos	2	3	2	7
Roy Bors-Koefoed - Memphis, Tn		3	5	12	20
Jacques Samson - Memphis, Tn		0	0	1	1
Meridian ObGyn - Meridian, Ms	TOTAL	0	1	2	3
	Elizabeth Trest	0	1	1	2
	Melissa Bryan	0	0	1	1
Womans Group of Meridian Meridian, Ms	TOTAL	9	2	4	15
	Heather Patchin	0	1	0	1
	Nicole Powe	0	1	3	4
	William Hamilton	0	0	1	1
Virginia Nelson - Meridian, Ms		0	1	1	2
Leslie Bender - Meridian, Ms		0	1	0	1
Urelaine Simon - Hart - Meridian, Ms		1	0	0	1
Greater Meridian Health Clinic - Meridian, Ms	TOTAL	1	1	0	2
	Candace Pringle	0	1	0	1
	Ericka Vaughn	1	0	0	1
Central MS Family Health Center - Meridian, MS	TOTAL	0	1	2	3
	Michelle Roark	0	0	1	1
	Linda Mclendon	0	1	1	2
Susan Baker - Mobile, Al		0	0	1	1
Delta Health Center, Inc. - Mound Bayou, Ms	TOTAL	2	0	1	3
	Michael Morris	0	0	1	1
	Jalarna Grant	2	0	0	2
Natchez Women's Center - Natchez, Ms	TOTAL	0	2	3	5
	Duncan Guedon	0	1	1	2
	Melissa Jones	0	1	1	2
	Kappi Rushing	0	0	1	1
Kofi Kumi - Natchez, Ms		3	1	2	6
Chi Dola - New Orleans, La		1	0	0	1
Mississippi Coast OB/Gyn - Ocean Springs, MS	TOTAL	0	2	2	4
	Gregory Horn	0	0	1	1
	William Moore	0	2	1	3
Michael Christie		0	7	2	9
Primary Care Group - Olive Branch, Ms	TOTAL	2	2	2	6
	Robin Taylor	1	1	1	3
	Laxmisilpa Hansen	0	1	1	2
	Sarah Ziebarth	1	0	0	1
Charles Ryan - Olive Branch, Ms		1	0	0	1
Oxford Ob/Gyn Associates - Oxford, Ms	TOTAL	0	3	1	4
	Marion Hunt	0	1	0	1
	Elizabeth Mize	0	1	1	2
Oxford Clinic For Women - Oxford, Ms	TOTAL	0	4	1	5
	Ronald Smith	0	1	0	1
	William Henderson	0	3	1	4

TABLE 4: Number of Unique Beneficiaries Started on Makena (Continued)*(January 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018)*

Practice / Physician	Pharmacy Program				
	FFS	UHC	MAG	Total	
Gulf Coast Ob/Gyn - Pascagoula, Ms	TOTAL	0	3	1	4
	Marshall White	0	1	0	1
	Nestor Delgado	0	1	0	1
	Holly Summerlin	0	1	1	2
Highland Center for Womens Health - Picayune, Ms	TOTAL	3	1	3	7
	James Blount	0	0	3	3
	Cynthia Jean-Pierre	3	1	0	4
John Jones - Richton, Ms	0	0	2	2	
Melissa Smith - Slidell, La	1	0	0	1	
Gregory Berault - Slidell, La	0	1	0	1	
Memphis Obstetrics & Gynecology - Southaven, Ms	TOTAL	1	1	6	8
	Jane Mcadory	0	0	2	2
	Elaine Thompson	0	1	0	1
	Fazal Manejwala	0	0	1	1
	Alok Kumar	1	0	1	2
	Daniel Lee	0	0	2	2
Starkville Clinic For Women Pa - Starkville, Ms	TOTAL	4	6	5	15
	Jacob Brown	2	2	0	4
	Allison Bennett	0	1	3	4
	Chester Lott	1	1	0	2
	Kristen Fyke	1	2	1	4
	William Locke	0	0	1	1
Miguel Luna Russo - Tupelo, Ms	1	0	0	1	
Street Clinic - Vicksburg, Ms	TOTAL	0	3	2	5
	Thomas Weeks	0	1	0	1
	Sarah Williams	0	2	2	4
Timothy Whittle - West Point, Ms	0	2	0	2	
Dian Kinch - West Point, Ms	0	1	0	1	
John Shields - West Point, Ms	0	1	0	1	
Barbrette Baldwin - West Point, Ms	0	0	2	2	

In order to estimate delays in obtaining Makena, MS-DUR examined the number of days between the first pharmacy claim and the first medical claim for administration following the pharmacy claim. It should be noted that this is the time between dispensing and administration and NOT the time delay in being able to obtain the medication.

- In Table 5, the time between dispensing and administering Makena varied from the same day to up to 4 weeks; with an average of 9.6 days.

**TABLE 5: Association of First Pharmacy Claims for Makena
With Medical Claims For Injection of Product^a**
(January 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018)

		Pharmacy Program			
		FFS	UHC	MAG	Total
TOTAL number of beneficiaries		89	133	181	403
Number with Associated Medical Claim		42	71	102	215
Number of Days Between First Pharmacy Claim and First Medical Claim	0 days	4	4	8	16
	1 - 3 days	5	11	15	31
	4 - 7 days	15	23	27	65
	8 - 10 days	2	11	9	22
	11 - 14 days	3	11	15	29
	15 - 17 days	7	3	8	18
	18 - 21 days	2	3	12	17
	22 - 28 days	4	5	8	17
Mean		9.3	9.0	10.1	9.6
J-code Claim With Drug Charge for		2	1	1	4
CPT Code for Injection		35	57	70	162

^a First prescription fill for Makena was associated with first medical claim within 28 days having J-code for Makena and/or CPT code for injection.

^b J-code charge for Makena associated with prescription fill could indicate double-billing error or administration of first dose in office using buy-and-bill.

MS-DUR contacted AMAG Pharmaceuticals and two of the top dispensing specialty pharmacies for Makena in Mississippi, Transcript Pharmacy and Briovax, to discuss the ordering and delivery process and to identify any problems with timely delivery of the product. Representatives involved in the dispensing of Makena from all three companies provided MS-DUR with information. A summary of the information from each company is provided below:

AMAG Pharmaceuticals – Makena is a limited-distribution specialty pharmaceutical product. The manufacturer prefers to ship the product to select specialty pharmacies, which were designated based on additional patient support provided. When a provider prescribes Makena, the manufacturer is contacted. AMAG Pharmaceuticals’ program, Makena Care Connect, has a care manager assigned for each state. Once notified by the provider, the care manager contacts the patient, conducts a benefits investigation, and arranges copay assistance when needed. Once the benefits investigation is complete, the care manager sends the information to the approved specialty pharmacy, Transcript Pharmacy. Other pharmacies may be utilized at the request of the pharmacy benefits manager (PBM). After the specialty pharmacy receives a prescription from AMAG Pharmaceuticals, they contact the patient to confirm they want the prescription filled and after talking with the patient, the pharmacy routinely ships the medication to the prescriber (“white bagging”). According to the care manager for Mississippi, the process from the time the physician writes the prescription until the time the medication is delivered to the practice site is typically 2-4 days. To help educate physicians on the appropriate procedure for prescribing Makena, AMAG Pharmaceuticals has representatives calling on physician practices. The Mississippi Care Manager indicated that the major delay in shipping the medication in a timely manner to the provider is the difficulty of contacting Medicaid beneficiaries by phone. The care manager reported that Mississippi Medicaid is the easiest payer in the

state for getting Makena approved for a beneficiary. There are no prior authorization requirements with Medicaid that delay the dispensing.

Transcript Pharmacy – Transcript Pharmacy is the specialty pharmacy preferred by AMAG Pharmaceuticals for distribution of Makena in the state of Mississippi. Transcript Pharmacy has Makena stocked and available in their pharmacy and can typically dispense the product either the same or next day upon receiving information about the prescription from the manufacturer. Makena is shipped overnight to the prescriber's practice. Transcript also echoed the comments from AMAG Pharmaceuticals that Makena coverage is not an issue for Mississippi Medicaid beneficiaries. Transcript Pharmacy employs a representative who provides education to providers regarding the ordering process for Makena.

Briovarx – Briovarx, the preferred specialty pharmacy for United Healthcare, stocks Makena in their pharmacy and can quickly ship the product. They stated that it is easy to get Makena approved for Mississippi Medicaid beneficiaries. No prior authorization is required. Briovarx also identified that the only delay noted occurs when there is difficulty contacting the beneficiary by phone to confirm the prescription.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Results from this project indicate that any delays experienced by prescribing providers in obtaining the product are most likely caused by the manufacturer and/or specialty pharmacy having difficulty contacting the beneficiary before shipment can be approved. Another potential problem that may be limiting utilization could be inexperience with Makena's appropriate process for contacting the manufacturer when prescribing.

The manufacturer requires certain paperwork be filed by physicians before they approve shipping of the product for a patient. The manufacturer provides an '800' number and a care manager for providing assistance in approvals. Transcript Pharmacy, the designated specialty pharmacy distributor in Mississippi, also provides support for physicians. Both the manufacturer and Transcript Pharmacy indicated they had resources committed to physician education in order to help improve the timely dispensing of Makena.

Recommendations:

1. MS-DUR should share results with other health service office directors within Mississippi Medicaid who are examining access to Makena.
2. MS-DUR should assist in coordinating educational initiatives for providers and beneficiaries. Provider education should highlight benefits of prescribing Makena, outline the ordering process and stress the need for patient education regarding the confirmation phone call from the manufacturer that must be completed prior to initiation of treatment.
3. MS-DUR should work with AMAG Pharmaceuticals, Transcript Pharmacy and other specialty pharmacies to coordinate additional education. The benefits of Makena and the ordering process for prescribers, especially those prescribers who may not be as familiar with the process, should also be addressed.