



PHARMACY SERVICES

Contact the Editor: Pharmacy@dmh.lacounty.gov

The Pharmacy Connection

A forum for pharmacy related news and updates for DMH programs

June 1, 2018

A Message from Pharmacy Services

We would like to welcome Dr. David Ruskin as the Chief of Psychiatry. Dr. Ruskin earned his Medical Doctorate degree at Sackler School of Medicine, NY/American Program, Tel Aviv, Israel and completed his Psychiatric Residency at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. Dr. Ruskin was the Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health Services at VA Puget Sound Health Care System. We are excited to work with him!



Formulary Changes

Formulary stimulant medications will now only require a prior authorization for clients 19 years of age and older. Clients 18 years of age and under will not need a PA and will have their medications automatically approved.

Prior Authorizations

The new prior authorization form can be found on the DMH pharmacy website. We no longer accept the old MTAR form or PA request forms from other health plans. Non-formulary requests criteria Power Point presentation can be found on the DMH pharmacy website.

All PA forms must include a fax cover sheet for transmitting PHI per DMH Policy 508.01. Please find a copy of the DMH fax cover sheet on the pharmacy website and the link below.

[New PA Form](#)

[Fax Cover Sheet](#)

Clinical Pharmacists/Advanced Clinical Pharmacists

In the next couple months, pharmacy services will be expanding our team with 14 new clinical pharmacists/advanced clinical pharmacists in our higher volume clinics. They will have the authority to perform the following: 1) patient assessments; 2) order and interpret all drug therapy-related tests; 3) refer patients to other healthcare providers; 4) participate in the evaluation and management of diseases and health conditions in collaboration with other healthcare providers; and 5) initiate, adjust/modify, and discontinue drug therapy pursuant to an order by a patient's treating prescriber and in accordance with established protocols as required in CA Business and Professions Code, §4052.6(a)5 and §4052.2(a)4.

Why Certain Medications Should Not Be Crushed

Some medications are designed to be released over a period of time. If the tablet is crushed, absorption of the medication can be affected and/or damaged. Disruption of a modified release coating may result in the patient experiencing a high drug concentration, causing toxicity or overdose, or low drug concentration, causing the drug to be ineffective. For a list of medications that should not be crushed, please see the link below. The list will also be posted on the DMH pharmacy website.

[Do Not Crush List](#)

As always, should you encounter any issues with OrderConnect do not hesitate to contact the OrderConnect team at Helpdesk@dmh.lacounty.gov

To access previous bulletins, go to the DMH Pharmacy webpage: http://dmh.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dmh/clinical_tools/

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