

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF DMH PRACTICE PARAMETERS

June 2014

- I. DMH parameters identify critical factors to be considered in the provision of care for individuals served in LAC DMH, but are not comprehensive treatment guidelines. An in-depth knowledge of the clinical skills essential for the provision of quality services should result from ongoing clinical training and regular review of relevant literature.
- II. These parameters represent the consensus among DMH clinicians and other experts.
- III. These parameters apply regardless of the funding source for the treatment.
- IV. These parameters in no way substitute for the client/clinician dialogue and respect for clients that is at the core of sound clinical practice.
- V. These parameters are not absolute, but practice outside of such parameters requires special justification, documentation and, in some instances, consultation.
- VI. These parameters are designed to encourage consultation, monitoring, and supervision at clinical sites rather than at more remote administrative locations, and to encourage education and training.
- VII. The specialized technical and interpersonal skills required by these parameters mandate specific education and supervision for all practitioners.
- VIII. Changes in current individual treatment regimens made for the purpose of conformity with these parameters should be initiated only after careful consideration of the original reasons for the current treatment, and collaboration with other providers for that client.
- IX. Use of medications for non FDA-approved indications (off-label) may be within these parameters in situations in which that use represents generally recognized practices that are supported as effective and safe by the current evidence base.
- X. These parameters reflect current interpretations of best practices, and may change as new information and interventions become available.
- XI. Special efforts must be undertaken to respect the unique values, spiritual beliefs, lifestyles, cultural and personal experiences, and autonomy of clients that are at the core of quality clinical care.