



PHARMACY SERVICES

Office of the Medical Director

Contact the Editor: OMD@dmh.lacounty.gov

The Pharmacy Connection

A forum for pharmacy related news and updates for DMH programs

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A Message from the Medical Director, Roderick Shaner, M.D.

Reintegration with primary care will place renewed emphasis on our professional role as expert consultants. Nowhere will this be more evident than in psychopharmacology. While the consultant role has its gratifications, two areas of concern for practitioners will be clinical quality and liability exposure.

We worry that DMH clients might require more than occasional expert consultation on psychopharmacologic management. However, 80% of anti-depressants and other psychiatric medications are already prescribed in primary care settings and improved access to our consultation will likely raise clinical quality.

The second concern is with liability. To what extent is our liability increased if we consult with primary care patients? DMH is working to adapt a number of national consultation models that are designed to ensure appropriate consultative practices that limit unnecessary liability.

Our new roles in integrated care will no doubt change much about psychopharmacology in DMH, with the potential to enhance both our care and our professional satisfaction.

Pharmacy Services | 550 S. Vermont Ave., 9th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90020 | Phone: (213) 738-4725



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