

# The Pharmacy Connection

*A forum for pharmacy related news and updates for DMH programs*

November 8, 2011

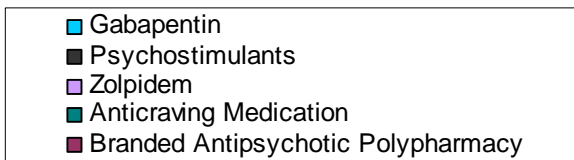
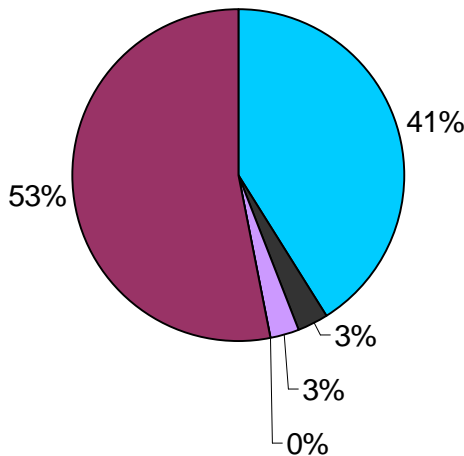
## *A Message from the Medical Director, Roderick Shaner, M.D.*

The development of the new Medication Treatment Authorization Request (M-TAR) for requesting certain medication improves our ability to efficiently determine and document the reasons we use medications that are outside of usual treatments in DMH. The M-TAR replaces all previous TAR forms.

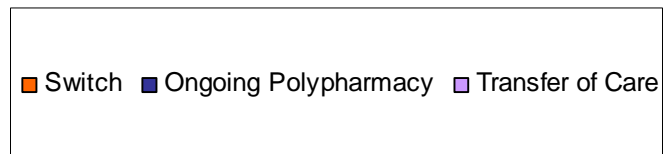
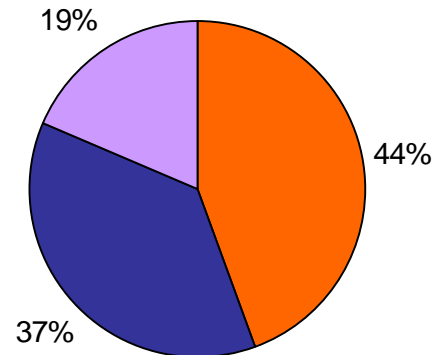
Our usual treatments, including our formulary and medication parameters, are developed on the basis of consensus standards for effectiveness, safety, acceptable cost, availability of alternatives, and demand. However, there are always exceptional cases in which treatment that may not ordinarily meet these standards is necessary. While adding an extra step, the M-TAR process assures that we can demonstrate that the use of an alternative medication regimen in a specific case is well-justified. That, in turn, helps ensure that we will have the flexibility to deliver high quality, individually-centered care, in every case.

The data below is based on the M-TAR pilot implementation from September 1, 2011 and countywide distribution from November 1, 2011 (A total of 36 M-TARs were received as of November 4, 2011).

**Type of Medication Requested**



**Rationale for Branded Antipsychotic Polypharmacy**



To access previous bulletins, go to the DMH Pharmacy webpage: [http://dmh.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dmh/clinical\\_tools/clinical\\_pharmacy](http://dmh.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dmh/clinical_tools/clinical_pharmacy)