



PHARMACY SERVICES

Office of the Medical Director

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The Pharmacy Connection

A forum for pharmacy related news and updates for DMH programs

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A Message from Pharmacy Services

Articles

Latuda Indication Expanded to Treat Pediatric Bipolar Depression

The FDA has expanded the drug's indication to treat pediatric patients aged 10-17 years with major depressive episodes associated with bipolar I disorder. "It is the first single-agent formulation to receive regulatory approval for this pediatric indication." The most common treatment-emergent adverse events seen in Latuda vs. placebo groups were nausea, weight gain, and insomnia.

[Latuda Pediatric](#)

Other Prescription Drug Problem

Opioid addiction and overdose is on the rise and has led groups to focus their efforts on reducing overprescribing of opioids. There has been little efforts to address the issue of inappropriate prescribing of benzodiazepines. Prescribers could check their state's prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) before prescribing benzodiazepines. Education about safe opioid prescribing should include information on benzodiazepine prescribing. National efforts need to educate the medical and lay communities about their risks of benzodiazepines.

[BZD](#)

A review of medical marijuana for the treatment of posttraumatic stress disorder: Real symptom re-leaf or just high hopes?

Posttraumatic stress disorder is common within the population, especially veterans. The current treatment option is antidepressants, which may require 9 patients to be treated for 1 to have a response. Marijuana has been evaluated as an alternative and novel treatment with 16 states legalizing its use for PTSD. However, current evidence is limited to anecdotal experiences, case reports, and observational studies.

[Marijuana PTSD](#)

Evaluation of adherence and persistence with oral versus long-acting injectable antipsychotic in patients with early psychosis

There is little published evidence on the theory that long-acting injectable (LAI) antipsychotics improve adherence, reduce gaps in therapy, and prevent relapse compared to oral antipsychotics. This study did find that LAI were associated with better adherence in patients with early psychosis, but did not significantly decrease gaps in therapy or use of psychiatric acute care services. This could be better studied in a larger group for this unique population.

[LAI Adherence](#)

Opioid-Related Critical Care Resource Use in US Children's Hospitals

The current opioid crisis is negatively impacting pediatric patients as the rate of hospitalization and PICU care for the ingestion of opioids by children increases. The increasing number of adult drug prescriptions is strongly associated with the rising pediatric exposures and poisonings. Children are at the greatest risk for exposure and morbidity associated with opioid ingestions. Additional efforts are needed to reduce preventable opioid exposure in children.

[Opioid Children](#)

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

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