

PHARMACY BULLETIN

SPRING 2020

PHARMACY & THERAPEUTICS (P&T) COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following policies were approved during the April P&T Committee Meeting:

- Surrendered and Repossessed Medication Policy
- Naloxone Policy and Procedure
- Critical Laboratory Reporting Policy and Critical Lab Reporting Workflow

Note: These policies and procedures only pertain to DMH directly-operated clinics and will be posted on Compliance Bridge in the future

Drug-Take-Back Locations & Proper Disposal

Drug-Take-Back locations are available near your clinic. Especially if your client needs help disposing their controlled substances. Please utilize the [California State Board of Pharmacy website](#) and the [DEA website](#) to search for a list of nearby locations where patients can safely dispose of their medications.

Please refer to the [FDA Guidance on How to Dispose of Unused Medicines](#) for guidelines on proper disposal of medications when providing instructions to patients regarding their unused or expired medications.

NEW PA FORMS

New PA forms are available on the [DMH pharmacy website](#). Please click on the link to obtain the form.

For any PA requests submitted for patients with DMH Magellan coverage, please use this new PA form.

MEDICATION SAMPLE REQUESTS

Medication samples can now be requested directly at <https://www.mysamplecloset.com/>.

This is a secure online portal where prescribers can directly request medication samples be delivered to clinic in lieu of in-person contact with pharmaceutical sales representatives. A proxy can be assigned to make request on behalf of you.

Note: May have quantity limitations.

Patient Assistance Programs (PAP)

Due to recent DMH budget cuts, the pharmacy department is looking into different cost saving strategies to help decrease expenditure on expensive formulary and non-formulary medications for patients covered through DMH Magellan. Applying for patient assistance programs can be an option to help DMH curb costs. PAP applications can be found on manufacturers' websites.

The following links are PAP resources for selected high-cost drugs we often encounter at DMH: [Latuda](#); [Invega Sustenna and Trinza](#); [Aristada](#); [Abilify Maintena](#)

UPDATED CS PRESCRIBING

Due to the current COVID-19 crisis, DEA has updated instructions on controlled substance prescribing especially via telemedicine (effective 3/31/2020). Please refer to the [flow-diagram](#) for proper prescribing. This policy will remain in effect for the duration of the public health emergency.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Suggested reading: 20-Year Trends in the Pharmacologic Treatment of Bipolar Disorder by Psychiatrists in Outpatient Care Settings

Reference: Rhee TG, Olfson M, Nierenberg AA, Wilkinson ST. 20-Year Trends in the Pharmacologic Treatment of Bipolar Disorder by Psychiatrists in Outpatient Care Settings [published online ahead of print, 2020 Apr 21]. *Am J Psychiatry*. 2020;appiajp202019091000. doi:10.1176/

FORMULARY

Cost Savings

Did you know per tablet cost for Latuda 20mg, 40mg, 60mg, 80mg and 120mg are similar? Prescribing Latuda 40mg, 80mg or 120mg oral daily using 20mg, 40mg or 60mg tablets respectively DOUBLE THE COST of the prescription since it takes 2 tablets to deliver the dose

Formulary Additions

The following medications for hormonal contraception were added to the DMH Magellan formulary during the April 2020 P&T Meeting: **Depo-Provera**; **Norethindrone 0.35 mg**, Combination hormonal contraceptives (**norethindrone acetate/ethinyl estradiol 1.5mg/30 mcg and 1 mg/20 mcg**, **norgestimate/ethinyl estradiol 0.25 mg/35 mcg**).