



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 the Medical Director, Roderick Shaner, M.D.

Risperidone is now off patent and available at a significantly lower cost than other newer antipsychotics. Although DMH spent more than \$22 million on newer antipsychotics last fiscal year, only approximately 20% of clients were prescribed risperidone. This is a challenge to explain as driven solely by clinical concerns in light of a raft of studies that indicate that there are no other antipsychotic medications shown to be more effective, at any price. Therefore, we are encouraging furnishers and prescribers to consider the use of risperidone before other newer antipsychotics whenever possible.

We provide antipsychotic medication support to over 6,000 uninsured clients a month. Three fourths of these individuals are being treated with branded antipsychotic medications. If an additional 1,000 of these clients were treated with risperidone instead, an increase of 80% over current levels of risperidone use, the Department could save approximately \$5 million per year. Please note approximate monthly costs below:

	risperidone (2mg QD)	aripiprazole (5mg QD)	asenapine (5mg BID)	quetiapine (300mg BID)
per month	\$15	\$522	\$600	\$850

When considering the use of antipsychotic medications, risperidone is a highly cost effective option that could permit us to use our limited resources to provide more services.

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