



# The Pharmacy Connection

A forum for pharmacy related news and updates for DMH programs

October 25, 2011

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

Could a single formulary work for the Los Angeles County Departments of Health Services, Public Health, Sheriff, and Mental Health? Could such a formulary provide the advantages of improved transitions of care for patients, augmented purchasing power, and outcomes management and, at the same time, be compliant with applicable regulations and allow each Department to meet its own unique responsibilities in the course of providing high quality care? Our county leadership is exploring this possibility.

Departments recognize that the circumstances in which clinicians prescribe in each Department vary in regards to settings, illnesses, and clinical background, but there is also recognition that Departments might agree on uniform standards for inclusion of any medication into a formulary. Such standards might include measures of effectiveness, safety, cost, alternatives, and demand.

For our own Department of Mental Health, we will certainly be asked to justify the medications in our formulary based upon such measures, and most of them likely meet these criteria. Our formulary, after all, mirrors that of Medi-Cal, but we should all follow formulary developments closely. Below, for interest only, is a list of the ten most commonly prescribed and least commonly prescribed medications.

Top 10 Most Commonly Prescribed Medications	Number of Rx Last Fiscal Year (Out of Total Number of Rx = 342,672)
QUETIAPINE	24,888
ARIPIRAZOLE	23,118
TRAZODONE	23,012
RISPERIDONE	17,933
LORAZEPAM	17,273
SERTRALINE	16,861
DIVALPROEX	16,125
BUPROPION	16,072
FLUOXETINE	13,223
BENZTROPINE	12,412

72%

36%

Top 10 Least Commonly Prescribed Medications	Number of Rx Last Fiscal Year (Out of Total Number of Rx = 342,672)
PHENOBARBITAL	21
LISDEXAMFETAMINE	31
METOPROLOL	43
AMANTADINE	55
THIORIDAZINE	66
CHLORAL HYDRATE	67
DEXTROAMPHETAMINE	76
TRIAZOLAM	97
VALPROEX ACID	112
DISULFIRAM	130

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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)

