



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

December 8, 2011

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

When it comes to prescribing, many of us have grown up using our PATS. The ancient design of this system requires attention to certain procedures in order to ensure that we comply with requirements for security and proper reimbursement. Programs and contracted pharmacies have received notifications that specify the requirements.

The bottom line for pharmacies is that they may routinely dispense medications to our clients only if the clients bring in a hardcopy prescription and their Medi-Cal ID card. In the absence of a hardcopy prescription, the pharmacy must get a faxed prescription or specific voice authorization from us.

The bottom lines for us are twofold. First, in order to avoid a lot of faxing, telephoning, or people without their medications, we have to remind everyone we serve to take their prescriptions and Medi-Cal ID cards to the pharmacy. Second, we have to be sure that the medical record contains complete documentation of prescribed or furnished medication. Click here for FAQ regarding this requirement:

http://file.lacounty.gov/dmh/cms1_171097.pdf

The good news is that we are moving ahead with electronic prescribing and letting our beloved PATS shuffle off its mortal coil.

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

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