



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.

Embracing e-Prescribing

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) is planning to implement e-Prescribing utilizing Netsmart's OrderConnect platform in the fall of 2013. This will replace the Prescription Authorization and Tracking System (PATS). E-prescribing will meet the necessary requirements for Meaningful Use incentives under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act and is a critical first step in the development of an Electronic Health Record. Some additional benefits offered by e-Prescribing to DMH providers and clients are included below:

- Flexibility in pharmacy network access for clients
- Access to view client's non-behavioral health medications
- Allow for refill authorization requests
- Drug interaction warning and additional drug alerts at the point of care
- Available on mobile platforms

The department has made a significant effort to customize the e-prescribing platform to meet the functionality contained in PATS, however there will be some differences in comparison to current PATS as outlined below:

- Decreased ability to place hard edits to prevent prescription entry. This will require DMH providers pay closer attention to alerts and warnings, or clients may be turned away at the pharmacy if medication is not reimbursable by DMH.
- IMP clients may be required to switch pharmacies based on eligibility.

To ensure a smooth transition, sufficient resources and training will be available prior to implementation. Also, as we prepare for this transition, your active input and recommendations are welcome and highly encouraged.

References:

CMS Meaningful Use Website: <http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/>

CMS Meaningful Use Measures: <http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/EP-MU-TOC.pdf>

Netsmart's OrderConnect ePrescribing website: <http://www.ntst.com/products/infoscriber.asp>

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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