

December Pharmacy Newsletter



PREFERRED DRUG LIST UPDATES

Integrated (Title 19/21 SMI) and ACC, DD and ALTCS

Additions:

- None

Removals:

- None

Other Updates

- None

Behavioral Health (Title 19/21 Non-SMI & Non-Title 19/21)

Additions:

- None

Removals:

- None

Other Updates

- None

** Drugs that are not on the formulary may be available via PA (prior authorization) **

- For the complete preferred drug lists, please refer to the Mercy Care websites below
 - RBHA: <https://www.mercycareaz.org/providers/rbha-forproviders/pharmacy>
 - [Behavioral Health Preferred Drug List](#): For members who qualify under Title 19/21 Non-SMI (CMDP, DES/DDD, or ACC Opt-Out) or as Non-Title 19/21 determined to have a serious mental illness (SMI), or Non-Title 19/21 children with a serious emotional disturbance (SED), Mercy Care RBHA fills only behavioral health medications.
 - [Integrated Preferred Drug List](#): For Title 19/21 SMI members, Mercy Care RBHA fills physical health and behavioral health medications.
 - [Crisis Medication List](#): For adults or children who are Non-Title 19/21 and Non-SMI who present in crisis at any of the facility-based psychiatric urgent care centers, detox facilities and/or access point in Maricopa County. The medications on this list will help stabilize an individual in crisis and bridge them to a follow-up outpatient appointment.
 - ACC: <https://www.mercycareaz.org/providers/completecure-forproviders/pharmacy>

Smokers with Schizophrenia, Varenicline Found Most Effective at Achieving Abstinence

Tobacco smokers, particularly smokers with schizophrenia, need help to quit. A recent study showed that smokers with schizophrenia who received pharmacotherapeutic smoking cessation aids, especially the medication varenicline, had significantly higher abstinence rates compared with smokers with schizophrenia who received a placebo. Participants in a similar study received bupropion and nicotine replacement therapy also demonstrated higher rates of abstinence than the participants in the placebo

group, but the rates were not as high as those that received varenicline. Overall, pharmacotherapeutic smoking cessation products can help a smoker with schizophrenia achieve abstinence. As a reminder per the benefit, smoking cessation treatment for formulary products is limited to 90 days of treatment every 6 months per AHCCCS.

Effects of Sertraline-Olanzapine on Weight, Cholesterol May Differ According to Patient Age

Metabolic changes, including weight gain and increased total cholesterol, have long been a concern with antipsychotic use. A recent study looked at a total of 126 participants ages 18 to 85 years old with psychotic depression who were in remission on a combination of sertraline and olanzapine. The researchers evaluated metabolic changes to see if there were any differences when comparing younger participants (age 18 to 59) with older participants (age 60 to 85). The results showed an increase in weight and total cholesterol in both groups, but to a lesser extent in the older group. Overall, these findings suggest older adults may experience less metabolic changes than younger adults and future studies could help to further elucidate this potential difference.

Prazosin Can Reduce Drinking in Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) Patients with Severe Withdrawal Symptoms

A study reported in American Journal of Psychiatry In Advance demonstrated the effectiveness of prazosin in reducing alcohol consumption in adults with AUD and severe withdrawal symptoms. The findings indicate that alcohol withdrawal symptoms are a significant moderator of prazosin treatment response for alcohol use outcomes and for associated symptoms of alcohol craving, anxiety, and mood symptoms.

Please have a safe Holiday Season and Thank You for all you do!

References:

1. Evins, A., Search for more papers by this author, West, R., Benowitz, N., Russ, C., Lawrence, D., . Anthenelli, R. (2020, November 03). Efficacy and Safety of Pharmacotherapeutic Smoking Cessation Aids in Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders: Subgroup Analysis of EAGLES. Retrieved November 30, 2020, from <https://ps.psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/appi.ps.202000032>
2. American Psychiatric Association. Nov 24, 2020. Effects of Sertraline-Olanzapine on Weight, Cholesterol May Differ According to Patient Age. Retrieved November 30, 2020, from <https://alert.psychnews.org/2020/11/effects-of-sertraline-olanzapine-on.html>
3. [Moderation of Prazosin's Efficacy by Alcohol Withdrawal Symptoms](#); Rajita Sinha, Ph.D., Stephanie Wemm, Ph.D., Nia Fogelman, Ph.D., Verica Milivojevic, Ph.D., Peter M. Morgan, M.D., Ph.D., Gustavo A. Angarita, M.D., Gretchen Hermes, M.D., Ph.D., Helen C. Fox, Ph.D. Published Online:19 Nov 2020
<https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ajp.2020.20050609>

This newsletter is brought to you by the Mercy Care Pharmacy Team. For questions, please email Fanny A Musto (MustoF@mercycares.org), Denise Volkov (VolkovD@mercycares.org) or Trennette Gilbert (gilbert@mercycares.org)

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