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Memorandum

To: Key Stakeholders and Interested Parties

From: John R. Corlett, Ohio Medicaid Director *JRC*

Subject: Medicaid Policy Change on Prior Authorization of Antipsychotic Medications for Managed Care Enrollees

Date: February 7, 2008

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has refined its policy regarding the prior authorization of certain antipsychotic medication prescriptions for consumers enrolled in Medicaid managed care plans. Specifically, **psychiatrists who participate in the provider panels of Medicaid managed care plans or are working within a Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC) will be exempt from prior authorization.**

We take very seriously our responsibility for the health and well-being of the Medicaid consumers in our care. We are also committed to managing the Medicaid program in which they are served. The better we manage the program, the more efficient, effective and seamless it is for our consumers now and in the future. This refinement in our prior authorization policy will allow us to fulfill both of these commitments.

It's important to remember that the vast majority of Medicaid managed care consumers should not experience a change in their access to medication because of this policy. Patients who are clinically stable on a particular antipsychotic medication will be allowed ongoing access to that drug so long as they are classified as clinically stable by their physician. ODFJS will only approve prior-authorization plans that provide such continued access. The only limitation for psychiatrists treating these patients is that prior authorization will still be required for second generation drugs that have a generic or bio-chemical equivalent.

In addition, ODJFS will actively monitor this new policy once implemented and will track the following:

- Adverse events such as emergency room visits and/or hospitalizations following a denial of a medication covered by this policy.
- Median, mean and maximum time for completion of a prior authorization request.
- Adverse events such as overmedication, drug/drug interactions, potential allergic reactions, prescriptions of atypical antipsychotics that were non-indicated and were prevented due to the implementation of the policy.

- Consumer and provider complaints and their resolution regarding the prior authorization policy.

We will make available a report on these indicators six months after the prior authorization policy has been implemented. In the shorter term, ODFJS and the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) will also conduct a monthly retrospective review of the implementation of the policy once we have approved prior authorization plans submitted by managed care plans.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Sandra Solano-McGuire, Assistant Deputy Director, ODJFS Office of Ohio Health Plans at 614-466-4443.

cc: Helen Jones Kelley, Director, ODJFS
Sandra Stephenson, Director, ODMH
Angela Cornelius, Director, ODADAS
Robin Harris, Governor's Office

**Medicaid Policy Change on Prior Authorization of Antipsychotic Medications for
Managed Care Enrollees**

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