

**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES (DCF)  
CENTRALIZED PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION CONSENT UNIT (CMCU)  
PROVIDER QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

February 2010-----

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**CMCU Update:  
The Centralized Medication Consent  
Unit has not moved!**

There has been some recent confusion regarding where to send 465 consent requests for Psychotropic Medication Requests. Some providers were incorrectly given a new fax # to which to send the psychotropic medication requests. Please continue to send the requests to the **CMCU at 877-DCF-DRUG (323-3784) and nowhere else.**

The confusion arose when the Medication Administration Unit, was reassigned and moved as part of a reorganization process within the Department of Children and Families. They are completely unrelated to the CMCU and are responsible for the medication administration certification training program for non-nursing staff who administer medications in Connecticut's residential and group home settings.

If you have questions re: the psychotropic medication consent process, please contact Aurele Kamm at 860-723-7217. You can also contact Curtis Harmon at 860-550-6455 or Chris Malinowski at 860-560-5093.

**Medication Management:**

DCF has developed several tools and mechanisms to help providers, parents, foster parents, and others safely manage the use of psychotropic medications.

Developing these tools and mechanisms falls under the responsibility of the Psychotropic Medication Advisory Committee (PMAC). PMAC is composed of a group of medical professionals (Doctors, Nurses, Pharmacists) from DCF and the community who have the experience and expertise to recommend ways to help manage the use of psychotropic medications.

Over the past several years PMAC has developed several methods, found on the DCF website, to assist with medication management including:

- ❑ An approved drug list
- ❑ Maximum dosing guidelines
- ❑ Medication monitoring guidelines
- ❑ Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) reporting
- ❑ Drug information service hot-line
- ❑ Annual educational conference

This work is ongoing as constant updating is required based on new research and/or best practice information.

In addition the PMAC constantly monitors for current medication related issues and when necessary forms sub-committees to look into these issues and report back to the PMAC. Recommendations may be made regarding actions the PMAC can take relating to the identified issue(s). Currently there are two PMAC subcommittees:

- ❑ Value Options/Medicaid Pharmacy Data Subcommittee; this group has the responsibility of evaluating DSS pharmacy claims data. The goal is to find trends in the data that may provide insight as to actions that can be taken to improve psychotropic medication

use. Action might include education or changes in policy/procedure. This group is also being asked to develop pre-authorization standards for the Husky program to include all behavioral health medications.

- ❑ Subcommittee on Obesity; this group is tackling the issue of the sharp increase in obesity seen in DCF (and virtually all other) children. Although the PMAC probably cannot solve this entire problem this group will be working to find ways to help children who gain weight when placed on psychotropic medications. As we know metabolic changes including significant weight gain is a known side effect of some psychotropic medications. This group plans to recruit the needed expertise (including a pediatrician and a clinical dietician) in order to develop a plan that will have a positive outcome regarding this important issue.

**Coming Soon!**

Education and sharing of information is an important goal of this newsletter: In future issues look for us to share interesting Drug Information Questions we have fielded and interesting ADR's that have been reported to the PMAC. Also look on our website for the latest changes/updates to the Approved Drug list and Medication Use Guidelines.

<http://www.ct.gov/DCF/cwp/view.asp?a=2558&q=386456>