

Medicaid Drug Therapy Management Program For Behavioral Health

PROGRAM OVERVIEW – FOCUS ON CHILDREN

In 2005, the Florida Legislature authorized the implementation of the “Medicaid Drug Therapy Management Program for Behavioral Health (MDTMP), a program whose goal is to work collaboratively with prescribers in the Medicaid program to improve the quality and efficiency of the prescribing of mental health drugs, and to improve the health outcomes of Medicaid Beneficiaries with a mental illness.

Designed as an extension and elaboration of the former Behavioral Pharmacy Management Program, MDTMP is being implemented by the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute of the University of South Florida (USF), through its agreements with Florida’s Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and its subcontractors. An added component to the program includes a study of the pharmacological treatment of children receiving antipsychotic medications.

This initiative focuses on:

- Children receiving antipsychotic drugs
- Increasing evidence-based prescribing practices
- Improving patient adherence to medication plans
- Lowering prescribed drug cost
- Children and adults that discontinue medication and/or use multiple prescribers for same class of drug

The MDTMP includes the development of Florida specific practice guidelines for the treatment of ADHD, depression, and bipolar disorders. Dissemination of the guidelines is achieved through a variety of methods created and implemented by the prescriber community. These treatment guidelines represent a consensus of the prescriber community and reflect the best available scientific information.

MDTMP also includes a claims review process and educational mailings to inform physicians of prescribing behavior that may not be warranted. The mailings, containing patient-specific prescription information and clinical considerations, are designed to reduce the frequency of practices that are inconsistent with the guidelines.

While recognizing that the individualized care of patients is ultimately the responsibility of the treating physician, by working collaboratively with Medicaid prescribers, it is MDTMP’s mission and commitment - with a particular emphasis on children - to improve the overall quality of the prescribing of mental health drugs and the health outcomes of those Medicaid beneficiaries with a mental illness.



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Special points of interest:

- *Program Overview*
- *Strategic Partners*
- *Expert Panel Meeting*
- *MDTMP Website*
- *Activities*

Advisory Committee Meeting

July 25, 2006

The Florida Agency for
Healthcare Administration

2727 Mahan Drive

Tallahassee, FL 32308

1 pm—3 pm

We welcome the opportunity to present the program and its findings at board, membership, or annual meetings of your organization. Contact us if you would like to arrange for such a presentation.

Email us

mmcperson@fmhi.usf.edu

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

The Medicaid Drug Therapy Management Program for Behavioral Health is implemented with the help of several partners who each contribute to the goals of the program. The program is a collaborative effort emphasizing strong communications between all the partners working together to expand resources and knowledge to improve the quality of care received by Medicaid enrollees with a mental health condition. In addition the program welcomes comments from all segments of the mental health community.

◆ *Applied Health Outcomes (AHO)*

AHO uses a proprietary schizophrenia Quality Improvement Program to assess the current treatment patterns of schizophrenia. The program provides an understanding of demographic characteristics of the Florida Medicaid population with schizophrenia, treatment and prescribing patterns, patterns of compliance and polypharmacy, discrepancies between current practices and “best practices.” The program is also designed to provide tools and recommended treatment strategies to physicians, case managers, patients, and caregivers.

◆ *Comprehensive NeuroScience, Inc. (CNS)*

CNS is the data engine that drives the program. CNS utilizes proprietary quality indicators and algorithms to analyze paid pharmacy claims data. The process identifies potentially inappropriate use of behavioral medication and patterns of clinical practices, as well as patients at high risk of poor outcomes. In addition, CNS develops customized educational mailings for non-specialists and other prescribers. CNS produces several data driven reports from which the partners of the program build their interventions.

◆ *Florida Council for Community Mental Health (FCCMH)*

FCCMH will solicit its members for voluntary participation in a pilot quality improvement program designed to improve prescriber practices. In addition FCCMH and its members will collaborate with the Florida Psychiatric Society in developing a medical directors advisory committee comprised of local physicians and other behavioral health leaders. This committee will develop and execute at least three local implementations plans in three areas of the state.

◆ *Florida Mental Health Institute—Dept. of Child and Family Studies*

Researchers in the Child Welfare Study will focus on intervention with high-risk children and compare the historical experience of identified high-risk children with best practice recommendations for medications and treatment services. The Study will develop a description of the experiences of these children that attempts to document how they arrived in a high-risk status.

◆ *Florida Pharmacists Association (FPA)*

Working with its statewide network of pharmacists FPA has developed academic detailing strategies to include interventions with prescribers and patients. Through a process for identification and notification FPA alerts prescribers when patients fail to refill or have other potential medication problem. FPA will use a secure website developed by Gold Standard to refer Quality Related Event (QRE) interventions to the retail pharmacist. The website will provide the following: patient information, prescriber information, pharmacy information, 90-day drug history and quality issues requiring interventions.

◆ *Florida Psychiatric Society (FPS)*

FPS will inform its members and the overall medical community about the project, its recommendations, status, and events. FPS will collaborate with the Florida Council for Community Mental Health in identifying and engaging local partners in the design and implementation of local interventions plans. FPS works with USF to secure a high level of participation in local educational CME events.

◆ *Gold Standard GSM),*

GSM is a Florida-based developer of clinical information databases, software development and electronic publishing. *GSM* has responsibility for overseeing the development and maintenance of the MDTMP website, electronic transfer of data, review of the prescribing behavior and usage of PDA recipients and desktop application of eMPowerx. *GSM* is also developing a marketing campaign designed to increase prescriber use of eMPowerx applications.



PROGRAM WEBSITE/WEBTOOLS

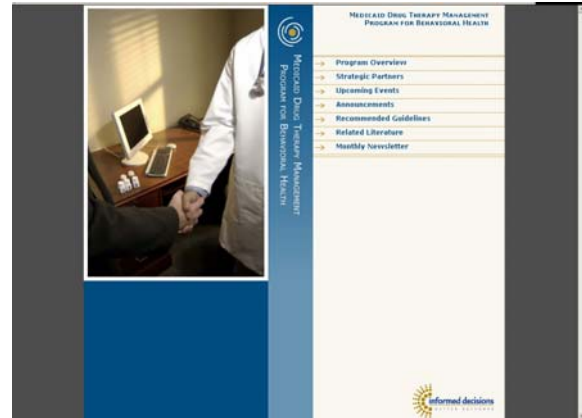
Gold Standard has developed a website for MDTMP.

(<http://flmedicaidbh.com>)

The website contains information on the program, its partners and list of upcoming events. It posts recommended guidelines and related literature of interest to prescribers, and a monthly newsletter designed to inform interested parties of the activities of the program.

Guidelines are presented by level of interventions and are accessible while utilizing the prescription writer tool within eMPOWERx. Physicians wanting more information on eMPOWERx should visit www.empowerx.com to register. The desktop version is available to all Medicaid prescribers.

<http://flmedicaidbh.com>



EXPERT PANEL MEETING

On June 9-11, 2006 a prestigious panel of national and local experts met in Tampa to discuss the current scientific evidence on the use of behavioral health drugs in children and adolescents. Representatives from the Agency for Healthcare Administration and the USF Florida Mental Health Institute participated in the conference. MDTMP's partners Gold Standard and the Center for Mental Health Care Improvement planned and organized the conference.

The goal of the meeting was to review the current literature on the treatment of ADHD, depression in children, and bipolar disorder. The Panel used a consensus-building process to develop pharmacologic guidelines that represent the latest evidence-based information and experience to promote the adoption of medication best practices.

The conference topics were:

- ◆ The use of mental health medications in the child and adolescent population
- ◆ The use of antipsychotics in children and adolescents
- ◆ The use of antidepressants in children and adolescents
- ◆ The use of psychostimulants and other mental health drugs in treating children and adolescents with ADHD

The panel reviewed the recommendations of several available guidelines and algorithms for the pharmacologic treatment of ADHD, depression, and the appropriate use of psychostimulants. At the end of the conference, the expert panel had reached consensus on several important treatment approaches firmly rooted in evidence-based medicine. The product of the conference will be a report with Florida specific guidelines and recommendations for prescribing practices. The report will be widely distributed to practitioners and other interested parties. It will be posted on the MDTMP website as soon as it becomes available.

ACTIVITIES

Several key activities were held for the MDTMP during the period of February through June 2006.

- ◆ Introduced the program by sending letters to 10,000 physicians
- ◆ Conducted the first and second meetings in February and April 2006 of the MDTMP Executive Committee meeting in Tallahassee
- ◆ Launched the MDTMP website - (<http://flmedicaidbh.com>)
- ◆ Held Expert Panel Meeting on June 9-11, 06 in Tampa
- ◆ Produced Adult and Child Mailings to be sent to prescribers
- ◆ Held USF Advisory Committee meeting on June 21,06. USF physicians and psychiatrists received an overview of the program and gave their advice on implementation
- ◆ Conducted preliminary analyses of antipsychotic data, historical usage, specialists vs. non-specialists and diagnostic profiles
- ◆ Robert Constantine, principal investigator of the program participated in several meetings with AHCA and DCF and attended the Medicaid Research Conference in Tallahassee

Mental Health Law and Policy

MHP

Improving Mental Health Services

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Major Partners:

Florida Agency for Health Care Administration

The Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute at

University of South Florida

Department of Children and Families

Center for Mental Healthcare Improvement

Comprehensive NeuroScience, Inc.

The Florida Council for Community Mental Health

Gold Standard Multimedia, Inc.

Florida Psychiatric Society

Informed Decisions

Applied Health Outcomes

<http://flmedicaidbh.com>
