



County of San Bernardino Department of Behavioral Health

INFORMATION NOTICE 10-15

Date: November 19, 2010

To: Department of Behavioral Health Staff
Department of Behavioral Health Contract Agencies

From: Allan Rawland, MSW, ACSW, Director 

Subject: Generic Medications

Introduction The Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) is revising the existing department formulary to cover generic medications, with minimal exception for brand name medications.

Effective Date and Transition The revised formulary will be effective December 1, 2010. DBH requests physicians work with your existing clients to initiate a plan to transition to the new formulary covered medications. Effective immediately any new client entering the system will be treated with generic medications.

Discharges Patients discharged from acute psychiatric hospitals, Institutes for Mental Disease, and State Hospitals on non-formulary medication will be reviewed and granted on a case-by-case basis through the Prior Authorization process up to two (2) months after discharge in order to make a smooth transition to formulary covered medication.

Formulary Exceptions There will only be one formulary utilized for all department pay DBH patients for County and Contract Programs/Services. Non-Formulary medications may be prescribed by the treating physician if clinically appropriate and is dependent on the client's willingness to pay for medication. However, the prescribing medical doctor needs to ensure the client understands his/her responsibility in paying for these meds.

Client education and information sharing is very crucial in order to facilitate the switch of medication and/or initiate formulary covered medication.

Questions Questions regarding this Information Notice shall be directed to Medical Services, (909) 382-3087.
