



Prior Authorization – Polypharmacy - Antipsychotics

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Polypharmacy Safe and Appropriate Use Review - Combination of two Atypical Antipsychotic Medications

Resource – AzDBHS Technical Assistance Document (TAD) 9 - Polypharmacy Use: Assessment of Appropriateness and Importance of Documentation
www.azdhs.gov/bhs/guidance/poly.pdf

Guidelines for Approval (cross tapers receive automatic approvals for 60 days):

1. Optimization of monotherapy has been documented to be ineffective.
2. Evidence-based augmentation strategies have been documented to be ineffective or clinically inappropriate.
3. The clinician has assurance that adherence to medications has not been a contributing factor to inadequate response to medications.
4. Initial approvals for combination therapy will be for 90 days. Documentation should be used to document symptom improvement over previous therapy.

References:

1. Manufacturer Product information.
2. Lehman AF, et al. Practice guideline for the treatment of patients with schizophrenia. American Psychiatric Association. Feb 2004.
3. Marder SR, Essock SM, Miller AL, et al. The Mount Sinai conference on the pharmacotherapy of schizophrenia. *Schizophrenia Bulletin* 2002;28;5-16.
4. Miller AL, Hall CS, Crismon ML, Chiles JA. TIMA (Texas Implementation of Medication Algorithms) Procedure Manual: Schizophrenia Module. Version: January 8, 2003.
5. Casey DE, Daniel DG, Wassef AA, et al. Effect of divalproex combined with olanzapine or risperidone in patients with an acute exacerbation of schizophrenia. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 2003;28:182-192.
6. The expert consensus guidelines: optimizing pharmacologic treatment of psychotic disorders. *J Clin Psychiatry* 2003;64;supplement 12.