

## Prior Authorization Guidelines

### Concomitant Antipsychotic Treatment

Effective Date: July 1, 2016

#### Approved Indications:

Treatment Refractory

1. Schizophrenia spectrum disorders or
2. Bipolar disorder, with psychosis and/or severe symptoms

#### Special Considerations:

Cross tapers will automatically be approved for 60 days. Providers must submit a prior authorization request for continued utilization of concomitant use of any 2 antipsychotics beyond the 60 days allowed for cross tapering.

#### Guidelines for Approval for refractory schizophrenia spectrum disorder:

1. Evidence of adequate trials of at least three (3) individual antipsychotics listed on the AHCCCS Behavioral Health Drug Lists, for 4-6 weeks at maximum tolerated doses, and failure due to:
  - a. Inadequate response to maximum tolerated dose
  - b. Adverse reaction(s), or
  - c. Break through symptoms

#### Guidelines for Approval for refractory bipolar disorder with psychosis and/or severe symptoms:

1. Evidence of adequate trials of at least four (4) evidence based treatment options dependent upon the episode type. Trials may include, but are not limited to, combination therapy of antipsychotics and mood stabilizers and/or anticonvulsants. Trials should be 4-6 weeks of maximum tolerated doses, with failure due to:
  - a. Inadequate response to maximum tolerated dose
  - b. Adverse reaction(s),
  - c. Break through symptoms

#### Additional Requirements:

- Provider must provide supporting documentation that adherence to the treatment regimen has not been a contributing factor to the lack of response in the medication trials.

#### Coverage is **Not Authorized** for:

1. Members with known hypersensitivity to requested medication(s).
2. Prior Authorization Requests not meeting the above stated criteria.

#### References:

1. ADHS/DBHS: [Provider Manual Section 3.15: Psychotropic Medication: Prescribing and Monitoring](#)
2. Correll CU, Rummel-Kluge C, Corves C, et al. Antipsychotic combinations vs monotherapy in schizophrenia: A meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *Schizophrenia Bulletin*, 2009;**35**:443-457.
3. Essock SM, Schooler NR, Stroup TS, et al. Effectiveness of switching from antipsychotic polypharmacy to monotherapy. *Am. J. Psychiatry*, 2011;**168**:702-708.
4. Tandon R, Belmaker RH, Gattaz WF, et al. World Psychiatric Association Pharmacopsychiatry Section statement on comparative effectiveness of antipsychotics in the treatment of schizophrenia. *Schizophrenia Research*, 2008;**100**:20-38.