



Healthcare from the Heart

Primary Care | Family Dental | Psychiatric | Counseling | Pediatrics | Post-Acute Care | Substance Use Treatment

11/4/2019

Regarding: VMAT2 Inhibitor medications

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice support for the addition of the VMAT2 medication class to the Idaho Medicaid formulary.

Psychiatric medications can cause a variety of negative side effects, but perhaps the one with the greatest impact on quality of life is tardive dyskinesia. This condition is entirely iatrogenic, caused by medications such as antipsychotics, and is often progressive and permanent. Prior to the release of VMAT2 inhibitors psychiatric providers were highly aware that we were causing this potentially horrific movement disorder, yet there were no viable treatment options.

With VMAT2 inhibitors we can successfully treat tardive dyskinesia while maintaining mental stability in schizophrenic and bipolar patients on antipsychotics. Thank you for your consideration of adding VMAT2 inhibitors to the formulary.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DA", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

David Atkins, PA-C, LPC

Director of Psychiatric Services