

LAKESHORE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ALLIANCE
Community Mental Health Services of Muskegon County
Community Mental Health of Ottawa County
Lakeshore Coordinating Council for Substance Abuse Services

Policy

No. 20-059

Prepared by:

Effective: June 1, 2010

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Approved by:

Subject: Psychotropic Medication Consent

John North, Executive Director

I. POLICY:

All Affiliates of Lakeshore Behavioral Health Alliance will have in place policies and procedures to ensure the informed consent of consumers taking psychotropic medication.

II. PURPOSE:

To ensure that consumers receiving psychotropic medication from an Affiliate of the Lakeshore Behavioral Health Alliance have provided informed consent to their treatment.

III. APPLICATION:

All Lakeshore Behavioral Health Alliance Affiliates.

IV. DEFINITIONS:

1. Informed Consent involves four elements:

- a. **CAPACITY (Competency):** Recipient/guardian can understand the information provided regarding medications, and can make a rationale decision about taking them or not.
- b. **INFORMATION (Knowledge):** Recipient/guardian is told the reasons for the medication, as well as its benefits, risks, and possible side effects, as well as any reasonable alternative treatments. The recipient shall be given an opportunity to ask questions and have them answered.
- c. **COMPREHENSION (Understanding):** An individual must be able to understand what the personal implications of providing consent will be based upon the information provided under (b.) of this definition.

- d. **CONSENT (Voluntariness):** Recipient/guardian agrees to take the prescribed medication without intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, over-reaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion, including promises or assurances of privileges or freedom. The recipient/guardian shall be instructed that he/she is free to withdraw consent or to discontinue a medication at any time without prejudice.

V. PROCEDURES:

Each Lakeshore Behavioral Health Alliance Affiliate will have in place policies and procedures that ensure compliance with all of the following elements:

1. Consumers (or their legal representatives as applicable) provide written voluntary informed consent to receive psychotropic medications. This consent shall be posted in the consumer's record. This consent remains in effect until revoked by the recipient or the medication is discontinued by the physician/physician assistant/nurse practitioner.
2. Consumers (or their legal representatives as applicable) are informed that consent for use of medication may be withdrawn at any time.
3. Consumers (or their legal representatives as applicable) are informed verbally and in writing of the name, therapeutic dosage range, maximum recommended dosage, purpose, effects, and possible side effects of any medication prescribed. Women of childbearing age shall be informed by a Health Professional about the risks associated with pregnancy. This process will only be performed by a licensed health professional (physician, nurse, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant).
4. A change of dosage within the approved range does not require obtaining a new consent. A change of dosage outside the approved range, or a change of medication within the same class, does require a new consent.
5. Consumers (or their legal representatives as applicable) receive a Medication Teaching Sheet for each medication. This shall be indicated on the consent form.
6. Consumers on Court-ordered treatment will be given the opportunity to give consent to their treatment by psychotropic medications but may be prescribed/administered outpatient medications without providing informed consent.
7. Consent for the treatment of minors by psychotropic medications can only be given by a parent or legal guardian.
8. Medication can be prescribed and administered to a recipient without informed consent only when the person poses a risk of harm to himself, herself or others. The circumstances must be clearly documented in the recipient's clinical record by the prescribing physician/P.A./N.P.
 - a. The initial administration of psychotropic medication may not extend beyond 48-hours unless informed consent is obtained.

- b. The duration of psychotropic chemotherapy under these circumstances shall be as short as possible and at the lowest dosage that is therapeutically effective.
- c. Psychotropic chemotherapy shall be terminated as soon as there is little likelihood that the recipient will pose a risk of harm to self or others.
- d. Additional courses of psychotropic chemotherapy may be prescribed and administered if a recipient's behavior deteriorates to the point where it poses a risk of harm to self or others.

VI. REFERENCES:

M.C.L. 330.1707
Administrative Rules R 330.7003