



# New Psychotropic Medication Oversight Process

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) has established a structured Psychotropic Medication Review Process. This process ensures safety and informed decision-making for youth in out-of-home care who are prescribed psychotropic medications and the Department is the Health Care Decision Maker (HCDM).

## What is Changing?

When the Department is the HCDM for youth in the state's care and custody, all psychotropic medication recommendations for prescriptions will now require Secondary Review by a clinical team including experienced, licensed pharmacists and/or child and adolescent psychiatrists.

## 3 Essential Steps for Prescriber

### Complete Section A

When prescribing for a youth in DHS care, you must complete Section A of the Informed Consent Packet (provided by the caseworker). This captures vital medication details and ensures timely decisions are made in the child's best interest.

### Provide Clinical Context

The clinical review team may reach out for clarification or additional context regarding your recommendation. We appreciate your expedient response to prevent delays in care.

### Await Final Decision

The Local Department of Social Services (LDSS) will follow up with your office to communicate the final decision for the medication recommendation. Prescriptions will not be dispensed prior to approval.

## Contact Information

### Informed Consent Procedures:

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### General Medical Treatment Questions:

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## Frequently Asked Questions: Psychotropic Medication Oversight & Review Process

### 1. Why am I receiving this communication?

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) is committed to the safety and well-being of children and youth in out-of-home care. This update outlines new enhancements to our psychotropic medication oversight process, which is designed to support safe, effective, and well-informed treatment decisions. You are receiving this communication because you may prescribe psychotropic medications to out-of-home youth where the Local Department of Social Services (LDSS) is the Health Care Decision Maker (HCDM).

### 2. What is the role of the Local Department of Social Services (LDSS) in the informed consent process?

When DHS, through the LDSS, is the legally designated HCDM, the LDSS is responsible for reviewing and providing informed consent for psychotropic medications. Your clinical expertise informs this decision.

### 3. What is the purpose of the Psychotropic Medication Review Process?

This process supports the LDSS in informed consent by incorporating a clinical review from a licensed pharmacist and/or child and adolescent psychiatrist of a proposed psychotropic medication prescription.

### 4. What do I need to complete when prescribing a psychotropic medication for a child in out-of-home care?

You'll be asked to complete Section A of the Informed Consent Packet (provided to you by the caseworker). This section captures essential details about the medication being recommended, and your thorough completion helps ensure timely review.

### 5. Can I recommend a dose range on the form?

Yes. You may include a clinically appropriate dosage range on the form. When a dose range is documented and approved through the informed consent process, you do not need to seek additional consent to titrate the medication up or down within that range. However, if the medication changes or the recommended dosage falls outside of the approved range, new informed consent will be required.

### 6. Will I be contacted by the DHS clinical review team?

You may be contacted if additional clinical information or clarification is needed in order to provide informed consent.

### 7. How will I know if the medication has been approved?

The LDSS will follow up with you and/or your office to confirm the decision.