

DCF Psychotropic Medication Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2021, 1:00 PM

PRESENT via Video Conference: Paul Rao, MD; Margaret Rudin, APRN, PhD; Amy Veivia, PharmD; Bryan Keyes, MD; Carissa Patsky-Pomerleau; Pamela Heatherington; MD; Angela Ojide, APRN.; Rosina Bandanza, MD; Georgia Spurrier (guest)

1. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom; Dr. Rao called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.
2. The next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2022, from 1pm – 2:30pm via Zoom
3. Minutes: The minutes of the June 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved with minor changes.
4. Announcements: A. Veivia announced D. Aresco's retirement. The committee expressed their gratitude for Mr. Aresco's contributions to the committee and wished him well in his retirement.
5. Medication therapeutic class review and discussion:

Antipsychotics: The antipsychotic section of the guidelines were reviewed for possible revisions. Ms. Spurrier presented data from the CMCU regarding antipsychotic use and obesity. No recommendations to revise the guidelines were made.

There was a request last meeting to provide up to date data regarding the use of Long-acting injectable antipsychotics (LAIAs) in children and adolescents. Research was done to determine if there were any guidelines for LAIAs in children and adolescents. A summary of the findings was presented and discussed. No recommendations were made based on the findings; it was noted that the evidence base in the literature is still limited at this time.

Anxiolytics and Hypnotics: The guidelines were reviewed and there was much discussion regarding reports of increased prescribing of hydroxyzine. The increase in hydroxyzine prescribing is believed to correlate with increased anxiety during the COVID pandemic and the fact that it serves as an alternative to benzodiazepines. No recommendations to revise the guidelines were made.

6. New Business:
 - ❑ There was a request last meeting to provide information regarding tapering guidelines for benzodiazepines. Tapering recommendations were distributed and discussed by the committee. No further action was recommended.
 - ❑ COVID-19 vaccination status for youth <12 years of age: This was discussed, and it was noted that there is now an Emergency Use Authorization for the COVID vaccine for 5–12-year-old children.

7. Standing items:

- Obtaining vitals, laboratory tests, and other assessments: This was discussed; no changes are recommended at this time.

8. Other as time allows:

- The committee was informed that the Clozapine REMS process is being updated and that prescribers must register at <https://www.newclozapinerems.com>

9. Dr. Rao adjourned the meeting at 2:00PM.

Respectfully submitted: Amy Veivia, PharmD