



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

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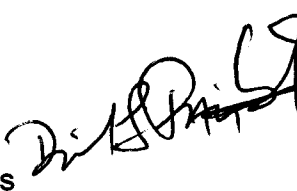
DATE: December 2, 2010

TO: CBC CEOs
Regional Directors
Circuit Administrators
Mary Cagle, Director of Children's Legal Services

THROUGH: ^{Patricia Badland for Peter Digre} Peter Digre, Assistant Secretary for Operations
David L. Fairbanks, Assistant Secretary for Programs

FROM: Alan Abramowitz, State Director, Office of Family Safety

SUBJECT: New Requirements for Pre-Consent Review of Psychotropic Medication for Children in Out-of-Home Care: **Effective Immediately Upon Receipt**



PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to guide the implementation of **REVISED requirements for pre-consent reviews relating to psychotropic medication** of children in out of home care.

BACKGROUND: Since 2005, the Department has required pre-consent review for any psychotropic medication prescribed for children ages 0 through 5 years. A pre-consent review is a review by a child psychiatrist of a proposed medication regimen to determine whether or not the proposed prescribed medication and dosage are consistent with accepted medical practice, given the diagnosis and physical condition of the child. Pre-consent review is not a second opinion.

In its report dated November 19, 2009, the Gabriel Myers Workgroup recommended that the requirement for pre-consent review be changed from all children ages 0 through 5 years on one or more psychotropic medications to all children ages 0 through 10 years who are prescribed TWO or more psychotropic medications.

Rule 65C-35, F.A.C. states "The Department may address the efficacy of psychotropic medication through requirements in lead agency contracts, including but not limited to the utilization of pre-consent reviews or second opinions by child psychiatrists." The requirements for pre-consent review are outlined in the CBC Services and System of Care Templates issued June 15, 2010, for FY 2010-11. Operating Procedure CFOP 175-98 and the referenced form CF-FSP 5279 were also revised to reflect the change recommended by the Gabriel Myers Workgroup.

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Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

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Pre-consent reviews are conducted at no cost to the CBC through a DCF contract with the University of Florida, College of Medicine Department of Psychiatry. In addition to the UF resource, the revised CBC contract templates offer two other options for fulfilling the pre-consent review requirement, at the CBC's own cost: 1) the option of contracting locally for pre-consent reviews with a child psychiatrist who is licensed under Chapter 458 or 459, F.S., and 2) the option to obtain a second opinion (rather than a pre-consent review) from a locally contracted child psychiatrist who is licensed under Chapter 458 or 459, F.S. If they so choose, a parent or legal guardian whose rights are intact may waive the pre-consent review for children who otherwise meet the new criteria.

In order to better serve the need for pre-consent review, the University of Florida, Department of Psychiatry, has developed the capability to support online submission of requests for pre-consent review. **Requests for pre-consent reviews for children ages 0 through 5 years on ONLY ONE psychotropic medication will no longer be accepted after December 1, 2010;** such requests will be returned to the sender. **Effective December 1, 2010, only requests for pre-consent review for children ages 0 through 10 years on two or more psychotropic medications will be accepted for pre-consent review. Effective January 1, 2011, all pre-consent review requests MUST BE SUBMITTED through the on-line website listed below.**

Children ages 6 through 10 years on 2 or more psychotropic medications as of December 1, 2010, will be grandfathered into the pre-consent review process. As new prescriptions for psychotropic medications are issued, pre-consent review requests should be submitted for all applicable children, i.e., those children ages 0 through 10 on two or more psychotropic medications.

The University of Florida Pre-consent Review Website is located at:
<https://psychiatry.ufl.edu/dcf/>

You will see that the on-line pre-consent review form has changed slightly. Responses will be faxed back to the sender. If the case manager's information is completed, a copy will be faxed to them as well.

Please note that the resource for person-to-person consultation about ANY use of psychotropic medication still exists via the MedConsult Line. Using the MedConsult Line, a case manager, judge, parent, GAL, or doctor can schedule an appointment to talk with a UF child psychiatrist and have their questions answered about side effects, contraindications, etc. This service is free of charge. Case managers bear significant responsibilities for ensuring that a child's well-being is protected, particularly when psychotropic medications are involved.

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ACTION REQUESTED: Effective December 1, 2010, begin ON-LINE submission of pre-consent review forms for children ages 0 through 10 years on TWO or more psychotropic medications. Cease submission of pre-consent review forms for children on one psychotropic medication only. Faxed pre-consent review forms will not be accepted after December 31, 2010. Please disseminate to Case Management Agencies, Child Protective Investigators, Children's Legal Services, Foster Parents, Guardians ad Litem and Others Working with Children Receiving Psychotropic Medications

Please share this information with all affected parties and implement the new guidelines immediately.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For additional information, please contact Alan Abramowitz at Alan_Abramowitz@dcf.state.fl.us or at (850) 488-8762.

cc: Laurie Blades, Children's Mental Health
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