



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

July 19, 2007

The Honorable Ulysses Currie  
Chairman  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1901

The Honorable Norman H. Conway  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
121 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1912

RE: 2007\_p124\_DHMH\_HCF\_Atypical Antipsychotic Drugs

Dear Chairman Currie and Chairman Conway:

The following is a brief review of clinical research pertaining to atypical antipsychotic drugs and preferred drug lists. Of most importance is a recent clinical trial, *Clinical Antipsychotic Trials of Intervention Effectiveness (CATIE) Project*, one of the largest ever sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health. This trial compared 4 different atypical brands – Zyprexa, Seroquel, Risperdal, and Geodon – to a single conventional antipsychotic, and found that all five agents had similar efficacy. Another trial, *Cost-Effectiveness of Second-Generation Antipsychotics and Perphenazine in a Randomized Trial of Treatment for Chronic Schizophrenia*, concluded there were no significant differences between perphenazine and any second-generation medication. Also, a recent randomized trial in Great Britain, *Cost Utility of the Latest Antipsychotic Drugs in Schizophrenia Study (CUtLASS 1)*, found patient quality of life indicators favored conventional over atypical antipsychotics.

Based on these trials, the Department finds that inclusion of atypical antipsychotic drugs in the preferred drug list process would not be detrimental to patient care. Therefore, the Department will include atypical antipsychotic drugs on its preferred drug list, and pursuant to p. 124 of the 2007 Joint Chairmen's Report, the Department does not plan to submit any further report on this topic.

If you have any further questions please call John G. Folkemer, Deputy Secretary of Health Care Financing, at 410-767-4139.

Sincerely,

*Signature on file*

John M. Colmers  
Secretary

cc: John G. Folkemer  
Anne Hubbard

Toll Free 1-877-4MD-DHMH • TTY for Disabled - Maryland Relay Service 1-800-735-2258

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