

8/1/2023

The following statement is intended to help licensors/certifiers understand what qualifies as a Psychotropic medication needing a balancing test or PRN approval status.

Licensing Interpretive Statement

Psychotropic Medications-

411-325-0360; 411-346-0190; 411-348-0360; & 411-360-0140

The definition of a Psychotropic medication for the purposes of this rule is broken into three parts.

- A) A classification of medications that are intended to or have the effect of ***altering thought processes, mood or behavior***. Medications used for the primary purpose of sleep are not considered as altering thought processes, mood or behavior.
- B) The classification of medications recognized for purposes of this definition are ***anti-psychotic, antidepressant, anxiolytic (anti-anxiety), and behavior medications***.
- C) The determination of a classification of a medication ***will depend on its stated, intended effect when prescribed***.

In most cases Psychotropic medications prescribed for individuals are based on a diagnosis, will have the effect of altering thought processes mood or behavior, and are intended to treat symptoms related to the diagnosis.

For example, individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia may be prescribed Zyprexa, Risperdal, or Haldol to treat hallucinations, delusions, or disordered thinking or behavior. In most cases the diagnosis informs the classification of medication.

When a medication falls into one of the classifications identified (anti- psychotic, antidepressant, anxiolytic and behavior medications) but seems to conflict with the prescribed intended effect, the determination of whether it is considered a Psychotropic Medication is based on the prescribed intended effect.

For instance, the medication Trazadone is classified as an antidepressant medication. If the medication is prescribed for sleep, it would not be treated in this case as a Psychotropic medication.

There may be medications that are not in one of the specified classifications but when prescribed may have the intended effect of altering thought, mood, or behavior.

Example: The medication Depakote (divalproex sodium/valproic acid/valproate products), an anti-convulsant medication that treats seizures (for instance Depakote) would not be considered a Psychotropic medication for purposes of this rule. However, Depakote can be prescribed as a mood stabilizer for individuals with mania from a Bi-polar condition.

If the medications prescribed intent is as a mood stabilizer it then qualifies the medication as a Psychotropic Medication.

Other examples to consider:

- Medications prescribed and intended for sleep are not considered Psychotropics.
- Medications intended to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder are a type of stimulant that treats inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity. Because they have the effect of altering (slowing down) thought processes and mood, these are considered Psychotropics.

References:

ORS 418.517(1)(b) & OAR 411-317-0000(181): "Psychotropic medication" means medication the prescribed intent of which is to affect or alter thought processes, mood, or behavior, including but not limited to antipsychotic, antidepressant, and anxiolytic medication and behavior medications. The classification of a medication depends upon its stated intended effect when prescribed, because it may have many different effects.