



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
Mental Health

1600 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 654-2309

November 24, 2003

DMH INFORMATION NOTICE NO.: 03-15

TO: LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM CHIEFS
LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATORS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
CHAIRPERSONS, LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARDS

SUBJECT: PURCHASING PROCEDURES USING THE STATE
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

This letter is to notify counties of the availability of a cost saving process for City and County local Mental Health Departments to purchase "atypical" antipsychotic medications through a set of recently negotiated contracts with the State Department of General Services(DGS). DGS has statutory authority that may be used by the counties for purchases (see attached).

Purchasing under this program has the potential to provide the counties significant savings compared to other contracts and purchasing arrangements for those counties not eligible for the Veteran's Health Care Act of 1992. (340.b pricing program). Participation, however, does require agreement to implement a tiered approach to medication selection and prescribing by practitioners. Purchasing through a prime vendor contract will also be required.

If you are interested in accessing the medications services available pursuant to this authority, you may contact Mr. Ronald LaSala at DGS, Procurement Division, Attn: Pharmaceutical Buyer, 1823 14th Street, Sacramento, CA95814, or contact me at (916) 654-3576 or Neal Adams, M.D., at (916) 651-6742.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by)

STEPHEN W. MAYBERG, Ph.D.
Director



DO YOUR PART TO HELP CALIFORNIA SAVE ENERGY
For energy saving tips, visit the DMH website at
www.dmh.cahwnet.gov

Attachment