

October 1, 2020

Dear Iowa Medicaid Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee,

I am a practicing PA certified in Psychiatry. Over 90% of my panel consists of patients covered through Iowa Medicaid. Our psychiatric toolbox is already limited when it comes to long-acting injectable (LAI) antipsychotics. These medications are paramount for the treatment of schizophrenia and other chronic mental illnesses. There are multiple studies showing neurotoxicity of typical antipsychotics leaving us two atypical molecules to work with: aripiprazole and risperidone/paliperidone. The two aripiprazole LAIs have different pharmacokinetics and means of administration that I have been able to take advantage of in my practice. One example simply came down to the smaller needle gauge and deltoid administration option of Abilify Maintena leading to treatment compliance and continued positive outcomes. It is essential that we have medications like Abilify Maintena preferred on Iowa Medicaid for ease of accessibility to those who can benefit from it.

Thank you for your time and consideration of having essential psychiatric medications like Abilify Maintena preferred on Iowa Medicaid.

Sincerely,