



September 16, 2022

Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee. Silver States Scripts Board.
State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Health Care Financing and Policy
1100 E William Street, Suite 101
Carson City, NV. 89701. Fax 775-689-3893, Phone 775-684-3676

Re: Review of Atypical Antipsychotic Agents.

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is John Anooshian and I am a psychiatrist in Las Vegas, Nevada. I serve as Medical Director of Mojave Counseling Center, a large community mental health center within the UNLV School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry; and of Westcare Community Triage Center, a non-profit residential substance abuse/mental health treatment center.

I'm writing to ask that the review board please consider the addition of Lybalvi (olanzapine-samidorphan) as a Preferred Status treatment option for those adult patients suffering from schizophrenia.

For transparency and disclosure, in the past I have been a paid speaker for the Alkermes pharmaceutical company (the makers of Lybalvi) but for a different product. However, I am not currently on their speaker bureau and commenting from my own personal experience I have found this medication to be very effective and helpful to many patients. This and other medications are key in enabling stability in the community and avoiding costly re-hospitalizations or incarcerations.

Medication compliance is of utmost importance in order to avoid relapses. Major factors of compliance are the tolerability and efficacy of the medication. As you are aware, the responses to and adverse reactions of medications vary amongst patients. Thus, the ability to have open access to multiple FDA- approved medication options, each of which has distinctive mechanisms of action and distinct side effect profiles, is very helpful in achieving stability and improved outcomes in patients with these severe mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorders.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Anooshian, MD
Diplomate American Board Psychiatry and Neurology

