



County of San Diego

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To: Prescribers

From: Laura Vleugels, MD
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JV-220 UPDATES: NEW CALIFORNIA RULES OF COURT AND JUDICIAL COUNCIL FORMS

Effective July 1, 2016, there will be modifications to the California state-mandated JV-220 process for obtaining court authorization to prescribe psychotropic medication to dependent youth as a result of the passage of California Senate Bill 238 in 2015. The information included in this correspondence does not detail all changes resulting from that legislation, but summarizes the information that will be critical for all prescribers serving this population.

JV-220 forms must be completed for dependent youth to be prescribed psychotropic medications. As defined by the law, psychotropic medications are:

“Medications prescribed to affect the central nervous system to treat psychiatric disorders or illnesses. They may include, but are not limited to, anxiolytic agents, antidepressants, mood stabilizers, antipsychotic medications, anti-Parkinson agents, hypnotics, medications for dementia, and psychostimulants.”

As in the past, prescribers will be required to submit a JV-220 form to the youth’s Protective Services Worker (PSW) at Child Welfare Services for review by the Juvenile Court. Effective July 1, 2016, prescribers will have to choose between two different forms (JV-220(A) and JV-220(B)) to accompany the JV-220 (PDF files attached, links to new forms will be available on July 1, 2016 on the Judicial Council website, <http://www.courts.ca.gov/forms.htm>):

- **JV-220 Application For Psychotropic Medication**
 - May be completed by prescriber OR by Child Welfare staff, Probation staff, Medical Office staff or by Caregiver
 - Must be attached to Physician’s Statement JV-220(A) or JV-220(B)

AND

- **JV-220(A) Physician’s Statement—Attachment**
 - Initial request to administer psychotropic medication to child
 - Request to start a new medication or to increase the maximum dose of a previously approved medication
 - A request to continue psychotropic medication the child is currently taking (but there is a new prescriber)

OR

- **JV-220(B) Physician’s Request to Continue Medication—Attachment**
 - Request to continue the same psychotropic medication and maximum dosage that the child is currently taking, AND
 - The physician completing the form is the same prescriber as the most recent JV-220(A)

Forms must be FAXED to the youth's PSW. There is no electronic submission process available at this time.

As in the past, it is expected that prescribers have court authorization (signed JV-220) prior to initiating psychotropic medication. Court authorization lasts for a total of 6 months, at which time another JV-220 form must be submitted. There remains an exception for emergency treatment. As defined by the law, emergency treatment is when:

- A physician finds that the child requires psychotropic medication to treat a psychiatric disorder or illness; and
 - The purpose of the medication is:
 - To protect the life of the child or others, or
 - To prevent serious harm to the child or others, or
 - To treat current or imminent substantial suffering; and
- It is impractical to obtain authorization from the court before administering the psychotropic medication to the child
- Court authorization must be sought as soon as practical but in no case more than two court days after the emergency administration of the psychotropic medication.

Should medications be administered on an emergency basis, corresponding clinical information should be included on the appropriate JV-220 form.

The County of San Diego is one the few counties state-wide that has a Board Eligible/Board Certified Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist review all JV-220 applications in advance of review by the Juvenile Court, a service provided by the Vista Hill Juvenile Court Clinic. These physician reviewers, along with the Juvenile Court, note the following as frequent omissions from completed applications that may result in an application being returned to the prescriber:

- Height and weight measurements not completed, or noted to have not changed over time
- Target symptoms not listed
- Multiple medications listed for the same symptoms without explanation
- Forms with uncompleted sections

Vista Hill Juvenile Court Clinic is also available for non-binding second opinions for prescribers treating youth who have complicated diagnostic issues or complex medication regimens. Any County prescriber may access this service at no cost and will receive a consultation note from the Vista Hill clinician. Vista Hill Juvenile Court Clinic is located adjacent to the Juvenile Court at 2851 Meadow Lark Dr, San Diego, CA 92123. Their telephone number is 858-571-1964.

Thank you for helping to care for Child Welfare and Probation involved youth. The County of San Diego recognizes that changes in the process will be an adjustment for prescribers in our community. If you have questions or concerns, I am available, laura.vleugels@sdcounty.ca.gov, or can facilitate communication with the Judicial Council.



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