

11/18/14

Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Committee on HCBS and KanCare
Oversight- Recommendation for the Report to the 2015 Kansas
Legislature

The Oversight Committee recommends that a hearing be scheduled during the 2015 Legislative Session before the Senate and House Health and Human Services Committees to consider repeal of KSA 39-7,121b. The purpose of the repeal would be to allow Kansas Medicaid to manage antipsychotic medications like it does other drug classes.

Explanation- Patients with persistent, chronic mental illness should be able to receive antipsychotic drugs with no requirement for prior authorization. However for all other patients, Kansas Medicaid needs the ability to perform safety edits to assess whether the drugs are being prescribed appropriately. This is especially important to insure that antipsychotics are not being used as a default method to treat symptoms of dementia.

With this change, guidelines would be developed for the use of antipsychotics based on current practice standards and stakeholder input in conjunction with the Kansas Drug Utilization Review Board. Changes to the Medicaid Pharmacy regulations would also be required, which must be approved by the Joint Committee on Rules and Regulations. These safeguards would insure the appropriate use of the potent class of antipsychotic drugs.