

APA Official Actions

Position Statement on Second Generation Antipsychotic Medications

Approved by the Board of Trustees, July 2020
Approved by the Assembly, April 2020
Approved by the Board of Trustees, September 2009
Approved by the Assembly, May 2009

“Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees. . . These are . . . position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects. . .” – *APA Operations Manual*

Issue:

Despite strong clinical and research evidence, effective treatments for psychosis spectrum related disorders via second generation antipsychotics are not always made available as first line treatments. This current lack of access to effective and evidence-based treatments has negative impacts on clinical outcomes, public health, and healthcare financing. This position statement was developed through a review of evidence to date and to establish APA’s consensus on the topic.

APA Position:

Given the current state of knowledge, it is our opinion that the second-generation antipsychotic medications, other than clozapine, need to be made available as first-line treatments for appropriate individuals throughout all systems of care. Clozapine needs to be made available for individuals with treatment refractory psychotic disorders. Access to these medications is necessary for all systems of health care and by all public and private insurers including all jails, prisons, and youth facilities.