

## Unison's Tablet Splitting Initiative

### The Case for Pill Splitting:

One common sense method that helps preserve Medical Assistance pharmacy benefits for our state's most needy citizens is the use of half-tablets where appropriate. Many drugs are priced such that a higher dose costs the same as a lower dose. Therefore, by simply splitting the higher dose pill, the member essentially receives twice as many doses at the same price as the lower dose. This "half price" or "buy one, get one free" discount is already recognized by many Medicare and self-pay patients as they routinely split pills that are safe to do so under the advice of their physician. The classic example is the #1 most prescribed drug, Lipitor, whereby most patients are prescribed 20mg of the drug. By splitting the 40mg dose, they save virtually 50% - a significant savings to a senior citizen living on a fixed income.

Unison has implemented a voluntary pill splitting program in which we partner with hundreds of pharmacies throughout Pennsylvania in order to ensure safe and appropriate pill splitting and to maximize the stewardship of the funds available for the Medical Assistance drug benefit. However, this voluntary pill splitting program will only succeed with the help and support from our provider network and our contracted pharmacies.

We are asking you, the physician or mid-level practitioner to routinely order half-tablets of the following drugs where you have deemed it appropriate to do so and we also ask our participating pharmacies to be diligent about providing pill splitting services for Unison members:

Paroxetine (Paxil)	(1/2) 40mg for 20 mg and (1/2) 20mg for 10 mg
Risperdal (risperidone)	(1/2) 4mg for 2 mg, (1/2) 2mg for 1 mg, (1/2) 1mg for 0.5 mg, and (1/2) 0.5 mg for 0.25mg
Lipitor (atorvastatin)	(1/2) (80mg) for 40 mg, (1/2) 40mg for 20mg, and (1/2) 20 mg for 10 mg
Pravachol (pravastatin)	(1/2) 80mg for 40mg, (1/2) 40mg for 20mg, and (1/2) 20mg for 10mg
Lamictal (lamotrigine)	(1/2) 200mg for 100mg, (1/2) 150mg for 75mg, and (1/2) 100mg for 50mg (All Scored Tablets)
Abilify (aripiprazole)	(1/2 ) 30mg for 15mg, (1/2) 20mg for 10mg, and (1/2) 10mg for 5mg
Topamax (topiramate)	(1/2) 200 mg for 100mg and (1/2) 100mg for 50mg