

## DBSA Medications & Perceptions Survey: Winter 2010

### Question 25: Comments about Pharmaceutical Companies - What They Don't Understand

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#### 25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use

1) Effects on females are different than the effects on males. Research studies usually don't reflect this discrepancy.
1. That there is no "One Size Fits All" with these types of medications and dosages. 2. Make drugs with smaller dosage choices to try, so it might be easier to differentiate symptoms vs. side effects, then they may be better tolerated.
a lot of mentally ill people don't have good health care and can't afford their medicine because they can't hold jobs because of their illnesses
A lot of us can't afford them, and while there are programs in place to help, the process can take months.
above and beyond the meds, people need to have a life,
advertise on television for greater awareness by sponsoring mental health programmes. I am embarrassed to ask for advice on medication around 'normal' people as Advertising doesn't help. Medical information from doctors is what's most important.
Again- Pharmco does not understand the socioeconomic state of the people who use these life saving meds. From experience I know that the newer the med the less horrible the side effects.
allergies
Although they list side effects of the medications, It doesn't seem like they are doing anything to prevent them from happening, They just assume we don't mind since it might help with mental stability. I don't think they see many of us as desperate.
As I stated above [question 24 comments], some of these companies are made up of people who have never suffered depression, and companies try to beat out a competitor to get their drugs on market first. I am very thankful for the SSRI, has saved my life.
As stated above. There is not enough room in this tiny box to what I think of the pharmaceutical companies. 255 characters You just don't get, don't you? I guess I should not bite the hand that feeds me.
Bad side effects
better explanation of side affects
CAN YOU MAKE ONE YOU ONLY HAVE TO TAKE ONCE A MONTH? Having Biopolar I for over 30yrs - it is a total fight each and every day to make your self take the damm stuff!!! or make it milder so you can still feel like yourself at least a little bit
cognitive behavioral therapy working on issues and meds go hand in hand and should not have one without the other. there is no 'magic pill'
cost
Cost
cost
Cost and side effects.
cost and some insurances dont cover or have high copays on these medications unless they are generic
COST BARRIERS!!!!
cost factor to the consumer
Cost is too high. This benefits only the drug company. Other countries don't pay as much as USA.
Cost of medication
COST OF MEDS - TOO HIGH
Cost often prevents physician recommended use Slick TV advertising done only to promote a specific medicine so as to make money for Big Pharma - very
cost side effects
Cost to the patient
Cost to those who cannot afford them, despite the fact they claim they have low-cost options for low-income people with mood disorders
Cost; need for honesty when it comes to all the side effects; sometimes they release meds before they are actually safe, then later have to take them off the market.
Costs

**25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use**

costs
Costs
costs and side effects
costs, side effects
Depending on the severity of a patient's illness, one may or may not be well enough to monitor his or her own symptoms and side effects.
Devastating effects of most BP meds.
Do they understand the illness? One has to have experience first hand to totally and fully comprehend what we go through. They need to hear testimonials and go to workshops/classes on mental illnesses.
Docotors give free samples of what they are given. Its trial and error to see what works for you. Mean while someone could get something that does not mesh with them and kill themselves.
Doctors will give a host of patients the "latest" treatment. When I was hospitalized, we were all on the same medication even though our situations were different.
don't know
dosage times
Dose and drug interactions. This is bad for doctors as well.
each one of us is uniquely different, as are our illnesses.
Each person is different and most meds have fluctuating side effects.
educate yourselves!
Every person is different, and every drug affects patients differently.
Every time they change meds. there is truly a chance for suicide.The ups and downs of meds. changes are some of the scariest things about being bipolar.
Everyone reacts differently to meds. In order to find the one that works for a consumer, he/she needs to have as many meds as possible available to him/her.
First of all, we are human beings. Second of all, the costs need to be reasonable, especially for our population. Offering significantly reduced costs for medications to those who do not have insurance would be a tremendous service.
For the free meds programs, I'd say the people who answer the phones have no real compassion. Teach your people not be so casual when sone
full range of side effects
Generic medications can be deadly. Patient assistant programs shoul not leave a disabled person or anyone who cannot afford their exorbitant co-pays without the means to pay their rent or even buy food!
get better meds with less side effects
Hi big pharma
How awful the side effects can be.
How coercive their use becomes during crisis and how little they recognize serious adverse events, e.g. urinary retention, short term memory loss, akathesia, etc.
how cost affects them
How dangerous they are to a human being when they are not the right drug for that person. when they give money to a drs office to advertise and push their meds they are not acting in the best interest of the public, they should spend that \$ in awareness
How dangerous they are.
How dangerous they really are and how harmful over the long run
how devastating side effects can be
How differently an individual medication can react from one patient to another.
How difficult it is for many people to consistently use their medications because of cost or other factors.
How drowsy and tired they make you feel
How expensive they are for the average person.
how hard the side effects can be to live with.
How if your on other medications my mail order pharmacy gives me no warning if these drugs interact with each other. I have to research this myself.
How important it is to have affordable meds that are needed.

**25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use**

How important it is to produce non-weight gaining medications. I know they know, but it should be a requirement now. I am one example of someone who almost reached the point of Metabolic Syndrome.

how important they are and how much ppl depend on them.

How important they are to a person like myself. Not crazy enough to be committed but unstable enough to have to take a handful of pills just to function in daily life. It's

How it feels to have to take a medication when you know that at any moment, any trigger could cause suicidal thoughts. If they told me they had a stomach ache and I offered them a muscle relaxer bet they wouldnt take it.I take anticonvulsant for depressio

how long it takes to become approved

How long it takes to determine if a particular medication work for a patient.

How many of them are in our position..And when are too many meds too many? Like a friend I know takes so many different anti-depressiants and mood stablizers I have to wonder if he even knows the time of day.

How much cost is a barrier, even though I have an HMO and have never been without coverage or medication knowing how much it costs puts a drain on me when I was unable to work regularly. Also the tv commercials I think do more to hurt than help. It gvies

How much money we can afford to pay since we may take the medicine for the rest of our lives

How much patients have to lose if they are not able to access the best medication for their diagnosis - because of cost, because Drs are biased towards specific

How much the side effects can affect daily life including work, school and social interactions.

How much the side effects can influence quality of life.

How much they are needed and how much they cost.

How really painful side effects can be.

How scared people can be of the medication and it's effects on them and their lives. How one might become completely dependant on them etc.

How scared we are of the side effects being minimized or not even noted by the company who make it seem safer than it is

how sensitive some patients are to them and how worried we are about side effects in simple terms instead of all those big words.

How seriously we are affected by the side effects.

How severe and damaging the side effects are

HOW THE HELL TO PAY FOR THEM. A PACK OF THEIVES AND WHORES.YOU NEED MEDS OR YOU WILL DIE THEY SAY. hOW ABOUT A HAMBURGER START COSTING 7500.00 ETC AFTER ALL WITHOUT FOOD THEY WILL DIE. ETC ETC.

How the side affects really impact your day to day life.

How they effect an individual person.

How vital the meds can be to the safety and well being of the patients. The need to make them more affordable. Less paperwork for those who need the help-it can be a major task to deal with the forms causing great anxiety, frustration.

How vulnerable to suggestion we can be if we are not in a healthy place.

how we can't afford them

How wonderful their product is and how it helps so many people. We are always trashing them, feeding our perception that we are the victim of pharm companies. Let's be partners. I have the right to have my disease managed and they have the right to make \$

I am unsure what the side effects will be for taking a certain medication. You feel like a lab monkey until the correct medications are found.

I believe it is extremely important for a pharmaceutical company to know personally how a psychiatric patient feels about the disease. They need to see the "human" aspect of the disease and not on just how the medication "works."

I believe that Pharmaceutical may not understand how debilitating mental illness can be.I don't think they are aware that many of us can't hold a job, making the purchase of these meds problematic.

I believe that psychihatic medicine should ideally only be used on a short term basis. I amn totally against putting children don rugs for bipolar and depression. The medicine has killed young children and caused many suicides

I believe that there is a significant disconnect from the pharmaceutical co. and the people who use them. They produce so many different pills and do not think of the

I believe that they don't understand that different medications, although from the same derivative, can cause different reactions, good and bad, in patients.

**25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use**

I believe that they need to realize that these medications are synonymous with my well being and livelihood. I can't function without them, and that shouldn't be made in to a capital venture. It should be easier to get my medicines, and less about money.

I believe that they over price them so that those that really need them cannot afford them or gain access to them.

I believe they know (chemically) TONS more than we about their products. What I also believe is if they were more educated on what they are ACTUALLY putting out there, far less people would suffer and they would make MORE MONEY!!!!

I do not think it is a question about 'understanding', so much as 'caring'. Do they understand that some of us depend on their medications to live/survive but can't afford them? Yes. Do they care, if it means lowering their profit margin? No.

I don't have an answer for this question.

I don;t think they understand that it might possibly take a combination of meds for a persons wellness.

I don't know.

I don't like taking pills to feel better, I do it more for my wife and kids who say they work for me.

I don't really have an opinion on this question.

I don't think most people take them as intended, missed doses, timing of doses, other interactions, other conditions all affect effectiveness.

I don't think pharmaceutical companies realize that the cost of medications are most often the only reason bi-polar individuals don't take meds

I don't think the compaines realize how difficult it is to pay for the meds when a person is on a fixed income.

I don't think the drug companies fully understand how awful many of the side effects of the drugs they produce and how more often times than not, these side effects are why people stop taking their medication. Also, I doubt some of the efficacy proclaime

I don't think these companies understand the people who take these medications need them to live. These medications are a matter of survival; of life or death, for the people who need them; not just a "choice" to "feel better".

I don't think they have any personal insights on how their medications really effect people in their day to day.

I don't think they truly understand there may be underlying illness causing the psychiatric issues

I feel that the pharmaceutical companies should provide affordable medications and that generic drugs should be medically sound and available.

I have no idea.

I sometimes feel like I and my friends are guinea pigs that pharmaceutical companies use to "test" the effects of medications. On the other hand, I appreciate having options in my medication regimen.

i speak for bipolar and many other with related or dual diagnoses. they are too clinical and tend to be insensitive and push their products through general practitioners and psychiatrists. e.g. lithium still works for about 60% of bipolars

I think it is that, at the end of the day, medicine alone will not manage the disease.

I think pharma companies know too much about the type person who takes psychiatric meds. That's the problem. They think about all the money that's to be made and not what may happen to people long term on this drug.

I think pharmaceutical companies understand too much about the people who use the psychiatric drugs. That's why they make so much money developing drugs they don't even really know how they work and charging an arm and a leg for them.

I think that certain medical trials should be conducted on a larger group of people over a longer period of time.

I think that not enough is being done to research and develop new medications to specifically treat bi-polar disorder. They also fail to see that people with the disorder work and participate in the broader world.

I think that pharmaceutical companies don't understand the prohibitive cost that their products bear on the consumer.

I think that they feel that their medications are cures, which they are not, Also, they do not take into account they people that they service.

I think that they want us to use their drug to experiment on us without worrying about the side effects we have to live with that may be life-threatening or we may suffer from side effects for rest of our lives.

I think the pharmaceutical companies don't particularly have an interest in much other than that their drugs are prescribed.

I think the pharmaceutical companies know a lot. I am not usually one to say this, but they really do not care about the customer. They are there to make money. It is obvious in the ways they pay doctors to speak for them, to write articles and to get ext

**25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use**

I think there are too many same or similar products out there. They should be marketed as such and Pharmaceutical companies should promote the differences/superiorities in their product.
I think they are selling a product just like any business, and that they try to maximize profit.
I think they do not understand that coming up with newer versions of the same thing do not serve us any better. What is most important to us is to find new ways that are better than what is currently available.
I think they fully understand everything. They just don't care.
I think they understand all too well what medications do and how profitable it all is.
I think they understand everything! They simply put the medication out there and the medications that are really prescribed a lot (i.e. xanax, ambien, anti-depressants, etc), the prices are high. It is the patient's problem.
I think they understand just fine. I trust that many pharmaceutical companies are searching for better psychiatric medicine with fewer side effects.
I understand the need to do trials with people who have only one illness but many consumers have multiple illnesses as and only find out the adverse complications later! Why can't they work out some way to do trials on people with multiple illnesses?
I understand they need to make a large profit when can't make up for the projects that fail, but still have to be paid for. But, drug costs are VERY high.
I wish that more studies focused on women. I think many studies are still based on men.
I work in mental health and am a consumer and I am disgusted by the pharmaceutical companies' lack of care. just make more money while we go broke trying to get
If a medication works for me, I do not want to change to something better? and more expensive
If I have never used them then they truly have no idea. Also, pharmaceutical companies are in business to make massive amounts of money and have little interest in the success of their drugs. I also believe the FDA to be corrupt.
If it's not easy for individuals to get medications, they won't get them. You simply don't have the energy-physical and mental- to deal with companies. If you have someone to assist you, you are more likely to follow through.
If these meds work they are required for a quality of life, reduce the risk of suicide. Many truly cannot afford the meds. Providing med at reduced or free is a life saver.
If you take a medication and you feel worse would you continue taking it? The side effects are terrible.
impact of side effects
individual needs
individualism
Individual needs of each person. One pill just doesn't cure all problems.
Initial testing is for a short period of time and the meds end up being for significantly longer time without consideration for those side effects.
Importance of how other addictions affect the use of any med, not enough guidance placed on taking the med, no follow up, by providers or drug companies.
Is that bribing the prescribers isn't always going to positively help their selling statistics. If they push a med on the wrong client for which the med doesn't work that is going to be a negative boost in their stats at the client's expense.
It is confusing to see so many advertisements for psychiatric meds on television.
It often happens that about 5 yrs after a specific medication comes out, there seems to be a case of long term side effects. which are usually not pleasant ones. Or there is not generic and the insurance company will not pay for the medication.
It seems like they do not take the importance the medications play in people's lives because it is not an outright accepted physical ailment such as diabetes but it is
It's difficult to find the right drug for each person. What works for one patient does NOT always work as well for another. Often it is a trial and error situation to find the right remedy. A new drug does NOT necessarily mean it is better.
It's not about the quantity offered, but the effectiveness, less side-effects of what is offered and the low cost incurred.
It's not the pharmaceutical companies I'm worried about. It's the ignorant politicians who try to regulate them. The government doesn't understand psychiatric
long term effects
Long term impacts on taking medications as well as the side effects associated with them
long term testing on how they will affect people
Long term use is often quite harmful.
long-term effects of continual use of a product.

**25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use**

Many medications cause serious weight gain, which makes them useless for the vast majority of the people who might consider using them (e.g. Depakote, Zyprexa).

Many mental health patients are on multiple meds.

Many of us are on a combination of meds to treat a wide variety of symptoms. Possible interactions should be studied further prior to release to minimize difficulties in

Many of us don't have the funds to pa for them.

many people can not afford the drugs they need to function. The costs are too high, I think the prices could easily be lowered if the people who earn millions of dollars take a small pay cut.

Many people don't have insurance. Alot of the medication isn't generic and the cost is very high. If I had to pay regular price it would be a financial burden.

Many people don't want to take medications, but take them because they have to.

Many people on psychiatric medications are unemployed or on SSDI or SSI. They have very little money to pay for prescriptions that they need to stay well.

Many people simply can't afford the medications or co-pays. For example, the co-pay for Abilify on my insurance plan runs \$180 per month. The medication without insurance is approximately \$700. It is simply not affordable even with insurance.

Many people that need psychiatri medications have trouble getting them because of the cost. Pharmaceutical companies that keep finding ways to push back the availability of generics or more prescription assistance programs are hurting people.

Marketing...tv and print ads always rely upon the same cliched approach to depicting illness and health. It's rather insulting.

Medications need to be made that don't put you into a stupor. This is especially important for parents and for swing shift workers.

Meeting the patient

Mental illness doesn't equate to stupidity. We are people, treat us with respect. Don't expect us to tolerate horrific side effects others wouldn't dare tolerate just because we have a mental illness.

Mental illness is a disease just like cancer or diabetes.

Mentally ill people are poverty stricken at risk of employers, family, unemployment. There is not enough money around for those that don't get government assistance-SSDI, Medicaid. Need less paperwork.

Millions of Americans use them each day but can be very costly. Because of this, many don't take their medicine and it can affect the productivity of Americans.

money

Most of the time, when we need the medications the most is when we're least able to understand the risks and the side effects. We're not guinea pigs.

Most of us would rather not be on medications, that the companies need to see psychiatric conditions as important as other non-mental conditions.

Most patients are unable to afford their prescriptions.

most people w/psychiatric problems can't afford insurance

most people who need the medications can't afford them but they are not going to get better unless they get them

**MOST PEOPLE WHO NEED THE NEWEST MEDICATIONS CANNOT AFFORD THEM. EVEN IF INSURANCE COVERS THEM, THEY ARE OFTEN OUT OF OUR**

Most people who need these drugs can not afford to buy them except through insurance hmo's who pay a considerable amout for the insured. Therefore, they should cut the prices and be competative with those drugs already approved by HMO's.

Most people who take psychiatric medications are usually lower functioning and can't afford the high price of the newer more effective drugs.

Most psych patients NEED the meds, but many do not have affordable access; patients don't take their meds for MANY reasons; side effects are much more serious to patients than to companies.

My cost is prohibitive to our getting treatment.

My guess...side-effects especially withdrawl of for those people who should not have been on them in the first place.

My main dissatisfaction about psychiatric medications is that the side effect profile is SO high, and has many unhealthy aspects. For most other conditions, these side effects would not pass through the FDA, however, nobody seems to mind this for those MI

need and cost

need to understand those with private health insurance need assistance. Lost job bc of illness opted COBRA dont qualify to get help on a \$250 med after insurance bc its private health insurance. Med is an anti-psychotic and I stopped taking it.

No one really wants to take psych meds or even have a diagnosis. Once they have decided to take the meds, not being able to afford them could mean the difference between a life & a death.

**25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use**

No one wants to be labeled as psychotic. Commercials need to portray mental illnesses as true diseases similarly to Diabetes.
Not applicable. They do.
Not everyone can pay their outrageous fees and that doctors do not discuss the medication properly to the patients. Therefore more clear information on the side effects is needed in a print size to make it legible.
Not forthcoming about side effects. Psych meds caused me to gain 55 lbs, develop diabetes and a metabolic disorder, none of which I read in the warning or side effects provided. One med caused heart damage in my daughter.
Not really researching the need behind the disease
nothin
Nothing
on TV they often picture us as helpless We are not helpless
one size doesnt fit all. and contraindications and cautionary use notations are not emphasized to doctors enough...especial in rural areas where primary care dr. is our feedback
Our numbers are growing. We did not choose to be this way. Ususally it is simply due to chemical imbalances that we are the way we are, just like diabetics. Our meds need to be priced so we can take them as they are absolutely important for us to live.
Overpromotion of their products is a negative--Seeing a Seroquel ad constantly is big turn off. Leave prescribing and diagnosing to the doctors. It is demeaning to suggest we should self diagnose and to have to see & the med advert all the time.
Patients do think about the psychiatric drugs they take and are concerned about the possible negative, long-term effects they may have. I have been on drugs in the past that have been taken off the market for adverse health effects. It's disconcerting.
Patients need more information about the side effects of the medications.
People are individuals, including those with mental illness. One size does not fit all and one treatment does not work for everybody. Indeed some people are not helped much by medication what so ever. Some people have been harmed by them (me). Remember!!
People are scared
People cannot function without these medications. It is not an option. They should not be priced beyond our ability to pay. Families should not have to go broke trying to provide critical preventative care.
People who need to use Psych meds are the least able to hold the kinds of jobs that pay the high prices the pharmaceutical companies charge.
People who take psych meds need them. Without them, some people won't be function in everyday life. We have an illness, no different than diabetes or cancer. We shouldn't have to fight for to get our meds because of the stigma attached to mental illness.
Pharmaceutical companies are glossing over the risks. The explanation "this medication's mode of action is unknown" is not adequate. Explain the theory of why they believe it MIGHT work?
Pharmaceutical companies could profit from lower prices that means a large number of customers who could afford and stay on their medications. Right now only a tiny percentage of those with mood disorders are being fully treated because of cost.
Pharmaceutical companies truly don't understand the financial hardship a person with mental illness faces- especially when there are not generic brands available. I also don't think they understand mental illness as a whole.
pharmaceuticals cost alot of money
Pills are not a cure for mental illnesses.
Polypharmacy.
pSYCH DRUGS MAKE US SICK
Psychiatric medications are wonderful, but they cannot replace the need for affordable hospitalizations and half-way houses for people like me.
Psychiatric medications should be given in shot or patch because we're nuts and we don't always take our pills
Psychiatric medications should not be advertised to be a cure-all for a all people. Every person responds different to all these medications and the companies should recommend that people get the advice of their doctor before taking it.
Pts. are greatly influenced by their clinicians and they use that to their advantage to make money. The side effects are really horrible and I have had MANY serious side effects using them. They need to make drugs as if their loved ones were taking them.

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Range of emotions
Reality of side effects, treats symptoms possibly but not rooted in scientific evidence - chemical imbalance theory not really proven. They also don't understand the many interactions that can occur with other things patients may take.
secondary effects warning
see above [question 24 comments],
side effects
Side effects and cost are significant reasons why patients stop taking their medications or don't take them as directed.
Side effects and how devastating they can be
side effects and how well the consumer is briefed and the sensitivity of the clients' reception both physical and mental to the treatment.
side effects and impact on other health issues ie: diabetic patients whom use the drugs can elevate their blood sugar causing additional complications
Side effects and withdrawals. I think they minimize them to get their products sold.
Side effects are very important to consumers, particularly sexual and weight gain.
Side effects can be a struggle. And sometimes people like me can forget to take their medicines from time to time
Side effects can be detrimental.
Side effects of these medications are what cause a majority of the mental health patients to not take their meds. Very important that they focus on this aspect of the
Side effects of weight gain. leading to heart disease, diabetes, depression thus leading to death because of these. Brings about a hopelessness that you lose either
side effects that make customers not use the medication, e.g. weight gain.
Side effects vary and sometimes new side effects are discovered after a drug has been on the market.
Side effects.
Side-effects, paradoxical effects, and in general how gross meds can make you feel. Also, I don't think they understand that the people who take them, though often labeled "crazy" and marginalized are not stupid.
some of the best medications are incredibly expensive for those who lack insurance coverage (e.g. Depakote, Seroquel).
Some of the medications are so very helpful, but could be way too expensive for the people who need them. Going without medication is a life and death matter..i.e.Suicide or Risky behaviors
Some of us can't work and have no insurance, yet they're priced ridiculously high...
Some people desperately need certain medications and can't afford them. The companies have a moral obligation to provide these people with help.
Some people,like myself, are incapable of making it through the day without medications and cannot risk changing med usage on a regular basis
Stated above. [question 24 comments],
Support parity so individuals with mood disorders are not forced to see prim. care physicians and can see adequately trained professionals who know the meds and disorders well enough to truly tx the patient with mood disorders without risking their lives
ten different drug co. will have ten different drugs for the same disorder. If they overwhelm my psych doc I might not end up the drug that's best for me, but the one from the drug rep who brought the most pizzas last week.
That a large number of us are trying to manage family life responsibility and professional careers. My support consists of many members with above average IQs who are just waiting to find the right drug to get us back in the game.
That a large percentage of people who need these medications cant afford them without Medicaid or insurance. But a lot of people who need these types of medicines can't work full-time so they have no insurance and must rely on Medicaid to get rx's.
That a medication they make can save some people's lives and yet they seem unwilling to offer some of the medications affordably.
That alot of their "Customers" would gladly be guinea pigs for new medications, especially if the research would help future generations and not just help sociopaths stay quiet and psychopaths stay chemically lobotomized.

**25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use**

- That different manufactures are different! One cannot be substituted for the other. Too expensive when a new helpful med comes out.
- That disorder affects not only the person but the family as well, when trying to regulate medications my mood swings and/ or energy levels are felt by all. The mind is a complex thing, what works for one might not for another
- That each person reacts differently to each medication. No one pill will be good for everyone.
- That everyone is different and that most people take more than one drug.
- That for many people multiple prescriptions will be needed, and perhaps they need to work collaboratively to find out what the most effective combinations might be.
- That generics should always be just as good as the brand medication without side effects.
- that having a mental health illness is frightening and to then need to take drugs that can alter your live in a negative way, makes this process even more frightening
- That if side effects are not addressed, then compliance is more difficult. The physical health issues, like obesity and diabetes are huge barriers.
- That if they produce a good med, it should be affordable. No BS about needing big profits to fund the next med...
- That many of us are suffering from comprehension and memory issues and need the info on effects, time till improvement, side effects and medication interactions in
- That many of us have to take several medications, and that really increases our costs. Without insurance, my meds would be too expensive for me to take.
- That many times, we don't stop taking our medications because we think we are "cured", it is most often because of severe side effects, such as massive weight gain
- That medication is a service to be provided to those in need, not a commodity that is the means to a profit.
- that more information on how to work with the medications through personal therapy in a more combined approach
- that most of the people who take them have a hard time affording them.
- that most people cant afford them and they are on many medications and a fixed income.
- That not everyone can afford (financially or otherwise) to rely on medication for the rest of their lives - yet they have still designed and promoted drugs so that consumers cannot (or believe they cannot) function without them.
- THAT ONE DRUG DOES NOT WORK ON EVERYONE THE SAME.**
- That people are a genetic variable that can't be addressed by a single, pure chemical!
- That people NEED their meds and cannot afford them because of inflated costs.
- That people who need them most are most often those who cannot afford treatment or medications.
- That profit is not the bottom line. It is the health of all people. It is not acceptable to control symptoms at the cost of gaining weight and getting diabetes. There should be programs for any person who can not afford medications.
- That psychiatric patients are physically ill. Our disease(s) are on the same level as diabetes or other chronic illnesses that are difficult, if not impossible, to prevent.
- That side affects are very hard to live with and there needs to be more effort to control them.
- That side effects such as weight gain or loss of sexual desire can effect the taking of the medication because of feelings of insecurity or low self esteem.
- That six to eight weeks is too long to wait for a medication to "kick in" when the side effects start right off the bat.
- that some meds take a long time to start working, while others have immediate side effects. Insurance companies don't always help when switching meds either.
- That symptoms are changeable within the period of time the drug is prescribed, I feel that docs are also not too flexible about changing the dosage according to the intensity of symptoms at any given time.
- That the astronomical cost can cause us to stop taking them abruptly which can cause a bad reaction.
- That the cost needs to be cheap.
- that the cost of the product does not help the consumer - they are usually on disability and not all insurances pay for some drugs or don't pay but a small portion
- That the expense makes it difficult for many people to use them.
- That the medication is unaffordable in many cases.
- That the medications are generally too expensive for the people who need them most to have access to them.
- That the new stuff isnt' always better than what's been around for years.
- that the overall well-being of those who use their products must be the top priority for the development and prescription of their products.
- That the patients using these drugs are REAL HUMAN Beings and for depressed, bipolar, psychotic patients there is a real need to help these people and the drugs offer little to mild help in myself and people I know. Zyprexa causes huge weight gain.
- That the people who take these medications are PEOPLE--HUMAN BEINGS, not guinea pigs!

<b>25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use</b>
that the side effects can truly dictate what people choose to continue taking- even when they are being helped significantly in terms of mood increase/stabilization
That the side effects of their medications aren't "minimal" to the people who have to take them to function. I don't want to have to make a physical trade off just to feel somewhat better mentally.
That the side effects ruin our lives.
That their efforts to get docs to use the latest meds might cause the patient to be taking something brand new, where an old standby might do much better, and should be tried first. Such as trying lithium before Lamictal.
That their medications are cost prohibitive to a population already strained financially.
That there are actually people that are greatly effected by using them!
That there are lots of medications that are made that interfere with people getting on some insurance policies.
That these medications should be readily and inexpensively available for people who need them regardless of the cost to the company.
That they are adding even more combinations (which may be good or bad) to our always evolving cocktails
That they are life saving to some people.
That they are very expensive, and need to be marketed at a lower expense, so people can use them to assist in their livelihood.
That they aren't suffering so they aren't vested in the end result.
That they can be lifesavers.
That they may need to lower their profit margin for this population because of their inability to pay more.
That they shouldn't push doctors with deals for certain meds
That those medications are, in many cases, absolutely necessary to achieve and maintain a decent quality of life, and sometimes to actually maintain life.
That we are all different and not everything works for everyone.
That we are at their mercy and they can charge whatever they want.
That we are humans,not statics. We are people, not dollar signs. We are not second-class citizens, we are son,daughters, mothers, fathers,sisters & brothers
that we are real live people who are entitled to know all we can about our meds and i wish they would not be soo focused on advertising and SELLING the latest most
that we as patients need to try out enough meds for a little longer before we fill out our sometimes expensive meds that we need to fill!
That we can't just take a pill and sit around all day because of the side effects- a lot of us have to work/go to school/take care of family and need to still function at a
That we can't pay the price that they are asking. Those of us without insurance just have to suffer without meds because of the companies' greed.
That we depend on their medications to survive. We need affordability to stay on our medications. Let everyone know the side effects, I find out on my own when I am having them before the doctor knows what is happening to me.
That we dont have one standard database we can go to compare all the drugs from different manufacturers. Pharma shoud organize a ommon purpose organization like C-SPAN that the cable industry has.
That we need primary research done in regards to bipolar disorder specifically.
that we need therapy along with meds
That we're people, not labels or crazy people
that we're poor& that there r 2ndary side effects;4 xample, we may xperience fatigue, &the pamphlet may say,"excess sleeping is common,"but if we have kids, sleeping can b deadly.even w/ no kids, we could fall asleep at the wheel.
that your needs change over time
the psyshiuatric manufacturers hear littel directly from the users, I for one never communicate directly with a manufacturer.
the absolute need for the patients treatment and providing affordable solutions
The actual cost. When new medications come out that could be beneficial, the cost is so great that the insurance companies will not approve them.
The availability of getting help.
The burden of cost is quite probably the single most factor preventing persons from taking psychiatric medications. Combine this with the fact that many consumers do not take their Rx as prescribed and you have a great many not properly medicated.
The business of companies can't be avoided, but there is reality that there are people that should take medications, but cannot afford to. Patients have priorities;if they choose to use their money that prevents ability to obtain meds, it's their choice

**25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use**

The commercial should first state that you must discuss with your doctor which medication you will take. And your doctor and yourself should be a team. The only person who knows how you feel is you.

The cost

the cost

the cost

the cost

the cost

The cost

the cost and long term side effects

The cost is prohibitive.

The cost of medications prevents a high percentage of the population in need of them from being able to afford them. Without insurance, which is almost impossible to get, I can't afford anything that isn't a \$4 generic.

The cost of new medications,

The cost of the drugs are through the roof. Leaving alot of people from becoming well

The cost of the drugs are through the roof. Leaving alot of people from becoming well

The cost of their medications

The cost of these medications should be reasnable/affordable for all patients who need them.

The cost that people pay for their medications.

The cost through insurance or without insurance

The cost to the individual patient-most are very expensive, even with insurance.

THE cost until the 10 years of the patent runs out.

the cost with the medicare donut hole is prohibitant for most people and some program for this situation is needed from pharmaceutical companies - lower middle class as well as the poverty level

The cost, side effects, information available when doctor prescribes medication.

The cost. Plain and simple. plus the fact that they make pill shapes that a horse couldn't choke down.

The costs are too expensive.

The costs are way to high. Even with a co-pay it is still high costs. When you need to take 3 to 4 different types of medications just to stay 'normal'.

the costs associated with it, especially for those without insurnace.

The dangers of how they react to individuals with dual diagnoses. Also, how dangerous they are when mixed with other meds.

The decision to stop a medication because of side effects.

the difficuties and compliance barriers.

The disease is enough of a burden; and their high costs are making the medication even worse. It makes the patient feel like the disease is more of a burden/stressor than it really should be. The high costs can actually make someones M.H. situation worse

The disorder and its process including the amount of pain that we feel.

The drug companies freely admit they do not understand the mechanism of action for drugs in the brain. They can only measure animal testing and subjective clinical data. How & why does it work? What does the brain do in response to repeated doses?

The education that is lacking by doctors who prescribe, the patients idea of being healed rather than treated. Advertising is misleading.

The effect such medications may/may not have on other medications such as for high blood pressure, etc.

The effect they have on the brain and the neorologigical side effects.

The effects of antipsychotics on our bodies. This includes severe weight gain and possibly diabetes. This is troubling to me- why don't research more to find meds that work well without causing these effects?

The expense for people that have no insurance keeps them from being able to be treated with that med. Isn't that why you developed them to begin with?

**25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use**

The expense of the medication. If my psychiatrist hadn't helped me find the resources, I would not have been able to afford them. They make billions and I think that they reduce the price and make a little less

The goal is the health of the person over the LONG term.

The guinea pig effect. How we can just go from one to the other without having side effects of jumping from one med to the other.

The healthcare industry needs to start off with whatever treatment has the highest likelihood of success, not the one that is the most profitable.

The horrible side effects and the costs which affect many although I understand they need to recoup the cost of research and personnel necessary in manufacturing the human factor ... ie., the very fact that mental illness has so many aspects/stigma, with direct impact on so many human lives, and the fact that medicine is not the only answer to the multifaceted causes of mental illness.

The impact of the side effects of the medications; including but not limited to weight gain.

The impact of weight gain! The cure is killing us I am willing to take meds it is the side effect that is the issue. I refused meds that are notorious for weight gain I already have weight and cardiac conditions and predisposed to Diabetes

The knowledge that its not "one size fits all" when it comes to medication, and the side effect dangers.

the length of time the medication takes before you can see a change in life

the level of side effects that cause many patients to discontinue the meds, particularly with mood stabilizers. the tremendous weight gain is unacceptable.

The long term side effects of the medications

The long term side effects. These are explained but not stressed enough. When you go to med management you visit for 15 minutes. Some nurses see 450 people

The medicines have extreme side effects. I was taking two medications recently, both increased my suicidal thoughts, one of the....Abilify....pushed me to the edge. luckily for me a friend was able to step in and save me before anything happened.

The meds need to be user friendly. I take Geodon which is supposed to be taken with 500 calories. That's a lot of calories. I'd like to see it changed to some other transport system. When I'm depressed, the last thing I want to do is gain weight.

The meds take care of the symptoms, not the cause.

The modern med while they may have a higher efficacy can put you in the poor house quick

The most prescribed (volume wise) drug is not necessarily the best drug for everyone. Drugs sometimes " stop working" for no apparent reason.

The necessity of medications related to mental health or the challenges faced by those with mental health problems, especially with maintaining gainful employment and access to health insurance.

The newest medications often aren't what is most useful or accessible for patients.

The number of people that put on so much weight causing more health problems

The people are leading difficult lives with mood disorders and when they respond well to a drug and have several months or years of being somewhat level they get to thinking they do not need the drug. not that drug doesn't work

The people that need these medications are not usually in the position to afford them.

The Pharm Co.c do not understand that we are regular people with regular jobs or no jobs that need help! They need to think of us as persons in need not a profit.

The pharmaceutical companies either don't understand or don't want to know about the side effects of these medicines. They are only interested in their profit

The population that takes them and their financial status.

the price

the price for drugs are out of this world. i believe that businesses should make a profit but their profit is unconscionable

the price they charge is so high that assistance program can't use them or won't

The real impacts of price and side effects on consumers.

the real pain

The side effects that some drugs have and the problem of weight gain.

The side effects

The side effects (which some drug companies cover up), for example - damage by lithium to kidneys and \_\_\_\_\_) can be so harmful that it is better not to be taking drugs for psychiatric conditions.

The side effects and the impact it has on the people who will/are using them.

<b>25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use</b>
the side effects are a big problem
The side effects are devastating. Also, The drugs carry huge stigma.
The side effects are important. Wellness skills are needed. Medications are only a part of treatment. Outpatients are far different from the people they test
The side effects are really scary at times, but I wish there was a way in this country that we could get medication at a reasonable cost without lawsuits being around the corner for known side effects. They do have to accountable though.
The side effects are sometimes as debilitating as the disease.
The side effects can be alarming
The side effects can be detrimental to over all health.
The side effects can be worse than the illness and severely impact lives.
The side effects from psych meds sometimes make you feel even worse than the illness itself. People see these effects and it makes the stigma worse. Try to make medicines that are less damaging to the body!
The side effects of starting or ending the medication can be horrific, even if you follow doctor protocol perfectly.
The side effects of these drugs. A lot of people are very sensitive to these medications, and because I was mentally ill, nobody would listen to me or believe what I was telling them about the side effects I was suffering.
The side effects or the importance of the medicine. I don't beleive that any who is not a dr or has no experience in mental illness understands the importance or understands how bad side effects can me.
The side effects vary widely among patients and severe symptoms are possible.
the side effects. They just don't care and shield potential problems with the drug(s).
The testing of the medicine, the side affects, and withdrawals.
the time it takes for their medications to work.
The true cost of side effects to the individual.
The true effects of the medications on people
the weight gain and negative perception of the general public when they find out you are bipolar or have anxiety issues
Their gall is immense regarding patients' ability to pay the drug companies' sky-high charges for little teeny pills. Where do they think we get that kind of money?
Their marketing strategies and keeping to introduce new products which are no better than those on the market -- but, concern a disorder with high prevalence -- so as to get patent protection. Ergo: increase the bottom line which is the only bottom line.
Their packet inserts can be very frightening. It would be better if they has a separate insert that is simplified so the average user could understand.
Their preference of certain brands over others makes no sense--the effects and effectiveness of the different psychiatric drugs vary so greatly from person to person. The system needs to be more flexible to account for this.
Their target audience (the consumer of their product) is the wrong target audience. It should be the families and loved ones of the target audience -who have more influence over the consumer than anyone else.
There are other means to recovery.
There are times when a person just can't wait that 2 weeks for the medication to start working; a faster method is needed.
There are too many "me too" medications-- we don't need another atypical antipsychotic with the same horrible side effects. Meds need to look more at connections between neurons-- not just neurotransmitters.
There seems to be a divide. Some branches of the company seem to be concerned about the patient YET the Corporate aspect is all about the money.
These folks don't realize how hard it is for some of us to afford their products.
These medications work differently for each person.
These meds are necessary for "normalizing" individual's lives. The fact that they are cost prohibitive is ridiculous. After taking this survey I will try contacting the companies to see what help they might give me.
They do not know enough about the people that use them .
They (willingly) don't know how their products compare with older and cheaper products. If they do know, they don't let anyone else know.
They advertise how medications that treat certain "physical" ailments are useful for psychiatric illnesses without divulging the case studies and long-term effects.

**25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use**

They are about profits. It is an unethical game to make money. They con the physician into prescribing whatever telling them serious side effects don't exist & con the consumers to believe they must take toxic medications regardless of consequences.

They are clueless about the need for meds at a reasonable price.

They are concerned with the bottom line, which is money. They use consumers as guinea pigs.

They are dangerous bedfellows: They manufacture and market. They are a for-profit industry answering to big investors demanding big profits. Letting the wolf into the house of the little pigs? Perhaps.

they are dealing with peoples lives, sometimes it doesn't seem to matter what effect their drugs can have on them if its not a good match

They are don;t work the same on different people. Side affect are miserable.

They are not a panacea and need to be accompanied by lifestyle ("mood hygiene") complementary strategies--I think they give the impression that if you take this pill

They are profitable corporations. With any patients with any illnesses, their concern is making money.

They can't truly understand the meds and patients unless they need the meds them selves or closely know someone that needs them

They do not fully appreciate the costs of the medications, especially for people who take a large number of the medications and have no insurance coverage for them.

They do not grasp how cost prohibitive their medictaions are for the uninsured.

They do not realize or want to understand that for some people the medicines do not really and truly help the person that is taking the medicine.

They do not seem to care about the patients, only their profit.

They do not understand how bad the side effects really are to those of us who have to use these medications.

they do not understand the direct effect that their meds have on the lives of people who are already stressed

They dont ask the right people, they should be asking the ones that take the medications

They don't care as long as their drugs aren't responsible for killing or maiming someone.

They don't empathize with us.

They don't know or ask what the patients want or need. I had a scientist from Johnson & Johnson's Janssen branch come to our DBSA meeting to learn what mood disorders are REALLY like. All his info is from PR reps.

they don't really care it's all about profit

They don't understand how important the medications are to the health of the clients and how many of the clients are too poor to afford them.

They don't understand that each mentally ill person has their own treatment needs. More medicines are needed to fit each individual's needs.

They dont understand that mental illness is a personal, unique experience and everyone has different symptoms and responds differently to any particular medication.

They dont understand that most people cannot afford their medications.

They don't understand that most people who use psychiatric medications are on SSDI, with the average monthly check being \$1,050. They make the medications unaffordable, and it is immoral and criminal.

They don't understand that people react differently to medications.

They don't understand that the cost of their drugs prevents many people from being able to use them.

They don't understand that the costs for new medications is very expensive and that Medicare does not cover many of the new medications. The newer meds manytimes have less negative side effects.

They don't understand that they can be so detrimental to peoples' lives. The drugs can help somewhat, but they change and control the metabolism of fat and starches to produce metabolic syndrome which is deadly.

They don't understand that we have to live with the side effects of the meds they develop. They and the medical community act as if it's acceptable to develop

They don't understand the patient that is receiving the medication. Most sales people are cheerleaders, both male and female

They don't understand what a patient has to go through to get the medications and how it makes them feel when they are on it.

They haven't been in our shoes. People with mood disorders at some point hit bottom. Some companies (pfixer) won't allow insurance coverage of any type, no

They just don't care about individuals, period.

They make it way too expensive and difficult to get. The people who can't afford it are the ones that need it most.

They may not be aware of our worries about taking psychotropic drugs. It's one thing to treat the body, another to treat the mind. It's difficult to swallow drugs with just "a leap of faith," -- seizure medicine Lamictal for Bipolar treatment.

**25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use**

They need to be affordable and they need to have less side effects. People taking meds for depression and or bipolar are more sensitive to suicidal tendencies, be they need to be affordable because society benefits as well as the individual.

They need to make medications (particularly chewable or dissolving) that are okay for children to take, specifically mood stabilizers and antidepressants.

They need to reveal ALL possible side effects

They really don't understand the side-effects, and they should take the medications themselves in order to see how debilitating they can be. Especially at higher doses and in higher concentrations.

They seem to not understand how some side effects will contribute to different aspects of an illness even if it is alleviating the primary symptom.

They understand everything. See above. [question 24 comments],

They understand precisely but like tobacco companies their bonuses are based on harming people with unnecessary or inappropriate meds not helping the most people most effectively and efficiently. CApitalism and drugs don't mix well.

They understand what they are doing to people, but they don't care they just want to make money and is killing and making people sick every day!!!!

Thier medications have the capability to improve and save the lives of individuals with mental illness. The medications also have the capability of increasing suicidal

This is a population that often has difficulty maintaining employment and often have no way to afford sky high prescription prices.

to make sure to educate the patient more about side effects and how it might effect other meds u r on

Treatment often fails due to inconsistent use. Sometimes this is entirely unintentional and related to the confusion associated with symptoms. For this reason, I recommend pushing pill boxes with the day of the week. Sounds small, but it's critical.

Various drug interactions when a consumer is taking three or more meds.

We are all different. a dose suitable for one may be to much or not enough for another

We are humans, not lab rats.

We are not rich! For many of us, our medications are what allows us to function in normal society, to hold jobs and be productive human beings. When our medication supply is disrupted it is a catastrophe because our lives are thrown into chaos.

We are not test animals. Often the side effects are worse than the actual condition being treated for. It becomes a toss up for which one is more bearable. Withdraw is another MAJOR issue.

We are people not numbers and dollars.

We are people with lives to live. I'm glad I didn't kill myself-meds helped, but I my pills made me numb. I wasn't dead, but I wasn't living- I see it in my friend now too. Surely these are doctor issues, but I had to say something.

We are people.

We are uneducated and put too much faith in provider and pharmaceutical company.

We aren't rich. Medicines that only help a small percentage of people who take them shouldn't be pushed on everyone.

WE CAN'T AFFORD THEM! We go under treated or not treated at all sometimes. Insurance companies often won't pay their astronomical prices. They truly don't care who they hurt, so long as the HUGE profits keep rolling in.

We care about the long and short term side effects as much as do people taking medical meds.

We could die without them.

We don't like taking psychiatric medications because of side effects and the social backlash against psych meds.

We don't need fancy adds telling us what medications to take. That's what our doctors are for! We need affordable medication that is actually covered by insurance

We don't want such extreme side effects. Some drugs fixes one thing and creates a list of other problems from the side effects. My MD doctor has been prescribing a medication to counteract the side effects of a antidepressant.

We don't want to gain weight. Weight gain is not a fair trade for sanity. You're still depressed only now with a weight problem.

We end up feeling numb mentally, and we can't go through life like that.

we have a hard time paying for them;

We know advertising and paid doctor vacations drive up our costs, we aren't just paying for your big investment in research.

We need clear guidance about what monitoring tests to get and how often, and for what reason. Monitoring for side effects is often neglected.

We need low cost and stability

**25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use**

We need these medications just to survive and the pharmaceutical companies should make them safer and less expensive if at all possible. They shouldn't be getting rich off of our illnesses.

We need to them to live healthy lives and pricing them in cost prohibitive realms or making them non-formulary to HMOs is ultimately detrimental to the public health since we have to be out functioning in a world we would be incapable of maneuvering in.

we often cannot work, and need lower prices on our medication

We often can't afford the medications we need.

We were delt these cards in life. But I'd rather be a pill taking bipolar than a surgery, chemo and radiation amputee, wouldn't you?

We would be better served by the holistic health approach where medication is like a pair of glasses or contacts -- mostly transparent correction of a disorder - that nobody else really notices.

We, like many chronic patients, are totally dependent on their accuracy, dependability, consistency and price. The prices go toward exorbitant profits

Weight gain comes with ALL medication. Do something about it. Irs the reason we stop taking the drugs

We're on limited budgets (like disability) and need affordable medictions. Also,we don't want meds that have serious side effects like weight gain and diabetes.

We're sick, and often poor because we're sick, often have co-morbidities that either cause, or result from, the psychiatric condition. We and our doctors need all the flexibility and support we can get. Don't fight us out of greed!

What some of these pills can do to you.

What the costs can do to someone who needs the medications long term.

when the disease exacerbates we truely need help and are not capable of responsible decisions

When we were presribed other medications and they did not work, why would they then want us to go back on them and set our mental standard of living back.

your doctor should be the to choose the medication he believes will work best for your dianosis

All the billions of dollars in advertising is hot air. I really don't think you know what you're doing most of the time, and you can't convince me. Drug Co. execs should have to try to live on these meds for several months.

are feelings and the terrible side affects

based on how the 'help to get meds thru the pharm co ' i did get. i don't think they understand that flexibility re: dosage is really needed. everbody is not the same.

Being on a small fixed income.

Cost

Cost is a barrier that most people can not overcome and the insurance companies are not going to pay the high prices for the new antidepressants.

Cost of Medication

Cost of medication and side affects

Cost.

Depression is controlled and not cured.

Developing more effective medictions that are better tolerated.

Different effects on different people

don't know

don't really know enough about this to comment

eople know their own bodies better than the drug companies do.

Exactly how the people feel about seeming crazy.

Expense and importance

expense is a real problem for many people

Expense to low income uninsured individuals.

For many people, psych medications work in their recovery but if they don't have medical insurance, many times they cannot afford to take their medications.

For some, it is the only thing that works and the cost should be lower.

GENERIC HAVE FILLERS IN THEM THAT AFFECT U NEGATIVELY AS OPPOSE TO BRAND NAMES.

**25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use**

Having to switch meds once we have a stable concentration in our blood stream can wreak havoc with our minds and bodies. Actually, they do know this, they count how addictive some of them can be

How bad the side effects can be in some people.

How bad the side effects can be.

How dangerous the side effects are and that some patients need to take additional medication to offset the side effects from the initial medication.

How difficult it is for people to afford them. When I see the enormous profits for these companies, I want to say, "Wouldn't half of that profit be enough? You could be saving lives by lowering costs!"

How expensive prohibits many from staying on their medications. When the samples run out and you don't have insurance you are just out of luck.

how expensive they are, particularly when the people that need them most are often times incapable of paying for them because they are out of work or on disability because of their condition.

how much people need them and that the cost is always going up

How significant the side effects are to the patients taking the medications.

how terrible the side effects are when you must live with them every day. Some effective seem small until they nver go away.

How the psychiatric medication(s), work the brain 100%. This is because everyone has different brain chemistry.

How very expensive they are even for people like me that have insurance.

How widely abused they are and how many people who have psychiatric problems also have substance abuse problems and end up dying from OD.

I believe pharmaceutical companies don't realize the significance side effects that arise from the medication that they produce.

I believe they already understand it, but continue disregarding peoples' lives and health anyway so that THEY can make a profit! See #27.

I believe they think we are 'lab rats' or test subjects.

I don't know if pharmaceutical companies give a lot of thought to individuals who use their products. More likely to address the CONDITION. The cost to many who suffer mental illness being a hardship on those who have no extended insurance.

I don't believe they should be making "sales calls" to doctors. Informing them of the drug is very different than promoting it. They should not encourage doctors to change patients' medications based on their profits.

I don't know.

I don't know.

I don't know; really have given no thought to that issue. I would hope that their R&D is monitored by FDA.

I don't think pharmaceutical companies realize how devastating the side effects are on patients.

I don't think they realize even with insurance alot of people cannot afford the newer medications and I think a lot of pharmaceutical companies try to sell the best newest thing only for money. I sometimes think they don't even care about the patient.

I don't think they understand how badly we want to be healthy and productive members of society. Very many of us become unemployed, we don't want to be permanently medicated by medicaid, we want medication that makes us productive again.

I don't think they understand much of anything about the people who use them. And they don't really care - that is not their goal.

I don't think they understand the impact of some of the side effects their drug might have on a person, whether it be while they are taking them or weaning off of one.

I have the impression they think it is impossible for us to live decent, productive lives without medications. It's almost as if they don't see us as humans.

I Think people should take ther meds.

I think the biggest problem is that their primary motive is profit, not patient safety or product efficacy - but I also think they understand that very well.

I think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand the many side effects that the meds have and that the cure is worse than the disease.

I think the pharmaceutical companies want to downplay the side effects of medications. The reality is that there is always something you give up (side effect) to get the benefit from a drug.

I think the psychiatrists should be the target of who's not understanding. The pharmaceutical companies are doing what they do.

I think the value of cognitive behavioral therapy is often underplayed or not funded enough, when it often helps more.

I think there's a lot that the executives at the pharmaceutical companies understand, but I think that they mislead people into believing that most medications (especially the newer ones) are more effective than they really are.

**25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use**

I think they are out of touch with an "average" person and cost of meds.
I think they have a pretty good idea of their medications and the people who use them.
I think they propel the myth that people need to be on medications for the rest of their life.
I think they understand the economic impact altogether too WELL, and operate in a manner to maximize profits.
I think they understand us plenty... they understand that we are dependent on the product they provide, and therefore are a "captive audience," so to speak. We are guaranteed customers.
I think they understand, I just think they are out to make a profit more than to help people.
I'm not sure they care about the patients very much at all. I think it's about making money.
In order to suck money, I think they are solely committed to the IMAGE that they care, not the actuality.
It seems to me that their inability to prescribe specific medications with reliable success rates, and the lack of physiological/neurological diagnostic criteria (e.g. brain imaging, blood tests, etc.) indicates a lack of understanding.
It's hard to convey just how much psychotropic drugs are needed by consumers. One (admittedly expensive) pill can do tremendous things, and it's far cheaper to treat with an 'expensive' drug than have them land in the ER at 5 times the cost.
It's irrelevant, as it's all about profit.
Many of us go through repeated withdrawals due to high cost of scripts.
many people simply can not afford what they are charging, & we NEED these meds to stay alive. if you don't have insurance, you are pretty much out of luck.
Many people who can't afford the meds will go off of them abruptly thus causing additional problems. figure out a way to make meds more affordable.
Many people who have a serious mental illness also have little or no income and cannot afford expensive medication.
Medication should never be prescribed for no reason or just lightly. Medication should only be prescribed when other psychotherapy methods fail.
Most people who take psych drugs are financially strapped. Why are they so expensive in the first place?
Most pharm companies are concerned with making money. Helping those of us who need meds is secondary! I understand, but think the priority is backwards.
Need more educational programs for counselors to use with consumers. Provide them at different educational levels
No comment
No one wants to have to take a medication for the rest of their lives....but they are a necessary evil and it would be helpful if they could be less costly.
Not everyone fits into the same pill box.
Not everyone takes it simply to feel better than average. These are lifesaving drugs for some, & we shd NOT have to put up with side effects that are covered up & lied about. Stop throwing out data that doesn't match what you want; be honest!
Often there is no one med that works but people need a combination of small doses of medicines, or cocktails. The cost of this is expensive to patients.
Once someone is stable on psych meds; but then they loose access to them... that person spirals out of control...
People deserve to be viewed as people and not as animals or livestock to push medication on. I worry that their constant push of medications may cause people like myself to take something I never needed in the first place.
People truly want to feel well, but the side effects often discourage people from using them. For example, I know many people who have stopped taking meds because of weight gain. Excess weight adds to depression in some people.
Perhaps the monetary affect it has on people like myself who take 4 pills a day to control depression. I think they may understand from the "ivory tower" but I think they need to survey those using the medications. Drug reps = pushers.
Perhaps there affect on each individual.
Pharm companies seem too minimize side effects of psychiatric meds.
Pharma believes in the magic bullet theory & that there are actually chemical imbalances in the brain of the majority of people with mental health problems, especially Potential of addiction (whether physical or psychosomatic)
Psychiatric medication is not the only form of treatment, and they don't always work for everyone.
Psychiatric medications are a temporary tool to use in the healing process. They should not/can not be depended on in the long term scheme.
psychiatric patients are in such a fragile state of mind and are often made to feel that everything that goes wrong is because of their "condition" and not the Recovery values and issues

<b>25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use</b>
see above [question 24 comments],
See above [question 24 comments],. Also, it is such a trial and error method of prescribing them right now. Not much is known about why one drug works for patient A, but makes patient B manic.
side affects
side effects
side effects
Side Effects
Side effects are the reason many of us have difficulty finding medications that are both tolerable and effective. They may scare people away from needed drugs and can result in the patient using meds to fix the problems caused by the first medication.
Side effects matter
some or many people can't afford the meds.
Some people are allergic to inactive ingredients, so different options for the same medication would be extremely helpful.
Some people just aren't helped by medication.
Sometimes the cost prevents someone from taking their meds on a long term basis
te calman la ansiedad y te ataca el corazon
That Disability is natural and a natural occurring part of the biological world. As green and red apples. It is not something to be "Tampered" with. A green apple should not take a pill to become a "Red thinking apple"
that if the side effects are just as bad or worse than my condition I probably won't take them
That it is not ok to expect people to spend large amounts of their income on medication.
That many of the people are unable to function well enough to have jobs that pay enough to cover health insurance.
that many of us are desperate to find something that, at least partially,ameliorates our illnesses. they must ALWAYS do the proper testing and longitudinal studies before they make these "magic bullets, available to the public.
that many of us suffer from ADD as well as depression, so can be unintentionally disorganized about taking medication. A pill system that comes like birth control so you can monitor whether you have taken a pill or not that day would be helpful.
That mental health issues are more important than making money.
That most of us that require life long help for depression need lower costs to maintain in our elderly years.
That once we find a medication that works in close conjunction with other therapies we are using, we enter into a delicate balancing act. Switching up medications will cause us to spend at least a year re-establishing the balance.
That side effects can make them unmanageable
That the medications are very costly and alot of people can't afford them.
that the side effects can be very serious
That their prices are often too high for many people who need them. Some people have no money to buy them and some people have great difficulty affording them when they only have enough money to afford food and housing.
that there are effects that may have a more negative impact on people's lives than the benefits of many of the medicines
That they are cost prohibited.
That they are supposed to be helping people with their treatments, not making money.
That they can give some patients false hope that the medications they are marketing will probably work for them.
That they often are on more than one medication.
That we are adults, that we are human beings and that our lives have value. Also they should understand that negative perceptions of their products are NOT the same thing as "stigma" towards mental illness.
That we are people - not income
That we are people and we have a brain chemical deficiency.
That we need to better understand the costs and benefits of taking a drug.

**25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use**

That when people are desperate for relief, using them as easy marketing targets is taking advantage of their illness and is immoral.

The ability to pay. Those of us who are on them have struggled with our symptoms, even with medication. The result is not so productive, low income, if any income at all. They cannot possibly understand what it is like at this end of the spectrum.

The companies are in it for the money-- they have no real incentive to determine any harm they cause after someone is "addicted" to these non-habit-forming

The cost can be too high if this medication is just a trial bases.

The cost is criminal.

the cost is outrageous for brand only drugs

The cost is skyrocketing; especially for the mentally ill who have no insurance. Bring the cost down and just maybe, (and I say that cuz it's a 50/50 chance a person will take a pill), the person would realize they do need the pill.

**THE COST IS TOO HIGH AND THEY ARE NEEDED BY THE PEOPLE WHO USE THEM ON A DAILY BASIS**

The cost of medications for the average person without prescription drug insurance is prohibitive.

the cost of the med,s

The cost of the medication is often unaffordable if you do not have insurance.

The cost. We must have the meds to live. But we can barely live after paying for the meds.

The cost-not all pharmaceutical companies understand this.

the costs, whydoes it have to be so expensive out of reach of many people's pockets

The detrimental need for reasonably priced meds & continuity of med. therapy. Those of us that must take these medications are not inferior or ignorant members of society & we're tired of being demeaned & humiliated by big pharma.

The devastating way that side effects can make us unable to function. Also, pharma does not do enough research into drug-drug interactions - many of us are on cocktails of many drugs, without knowing if it is dangerous.

**THE EXPENSE. DO THE NUMBER OF MEDICATIONS THEY PRODUCE REALLY HAVE AN IMPACT ON PATIENT WELLNESS?**

The fact of ceasing the making of particular medications and generics where one inactive ingredient can be changed permanently causing the person to not be able to

The fact that some clients are adversely affected by entire categories of antidepressants or antipsychotics, especially SSRI's.

The financial limitations of people with mental illness, making access to medication difficult or impossible, or forcing the consumer into severe financial hardship.

The frustration of cost and side effects. Both contribute to non-compliance. Often pt wants help but cost and/or side effects make it difficult for pt.

The frustration with finding the right prescription

The importance of encouraging and promoting integrated treatment plans that include individual and group therapy, not just medication.

The interaction of one psych drug on another. Although there are trials, after all is said and done, I am left--and my psychiatrist--to figure out what symptoms are caused from perhaps one or many symptoms.

the intricacy of the medications' effects on the entire body, not just the mind/brain. Side-effects are far too extensive for any company to push their product; quality of life needs to be considered, not just symptom relief.

the many prohibitive factors involved in having access the right medication, including the doctors who seem to be subject to their influence or aren't willing to try new

The medication is only a small part of the person's recovery and doesn't need to be a lifelong part of their life.

The need to start slowly.

The obstacles to getting them.

The old adage, "Walk a mile in my shoes," seems fitting here. We are not trying to take advantage of the system, only to have a better quality of life.

The people using psychiatric meds are an incredibly diverse people who deserve the same human rights as the pharm company execs themselves.

The people using them. Side effects are a huge downside that patients struggle with even if the med seems to help we don't want to use that med and will pressure our doctors to change meds. We have lives and their meds can hugely damage and complicate.

the price of the med after the donuts hole and there recoup of there research money

The side effects and the potential long term effects that medications have on the person taking them.

The side effects are as bad as the symptoms they treat. The cost is prohibitive for many people. They take too long to show any benefit at all and often do not work even after many weeks. Switching to another drug is difficult and debilitating.

**25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use**

The side effects are something to be considered. The sexual side effects are depressing as well.
The significance of side effects ie weight gain and the effect it has in people's lives
The stigma that we all choose to be over-medicated. Some people truly need medication to get through their day-to-day lives or survive a traumatizing event.
the streath of the them and how many i take during the day
There are way too many side-affects on many of the medications.
These medications can be beneficial, but there are also extremely harmful. I had a horrible experience when I went off Celexa. My doctor referred to it as SSRI
Theses medications are for those with mental issues; these medicines effect the functioning of our brains which effect our bodily functions...our brains can not be replaced!! We are using such meds. to get better, not to intensify our current conditions.
They are necessary to our lives and ability to even function.
They are not patients themselves, are pushing a product they do not take
They can help us to lead a normal life-without it, sometimes it cause us not to lead a productive
they create medications to solve one problem. what about the problems created from their "solution?"
They do actually make some good products. Some people can't afford these, though, and it would benefit these individuals and society at large to find a way to get these medications to these needy individuals.
They do not understand how a psychological illness can effect a persons ability to live a normal life. They do not understand the problems associated with a mental illness directly nor how hard it is to afford medications/treatment.
They do not understand the enormous pain that patients go through until they find a medication that begins to work. Often times a life is hanging in the balance during
THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND SOME OF THE SIDE EFFECTS.
They don't understand that the side effects on some drugs are worse than not taking them. Because of the greed in the industry they ignore the financial impact it has
They don't understand that we're human beings, not just a chance for a higher paycheck.
They list all these terrible side effects without statistics or facts as to how often they occur. They do not detail how meds work.
They look at people as Dollars and think of the medical field as a cash cow.They do provide medications that truly help people but the bottom line is their God for
They may not realize, many patients are not able to work, so they need a low cost medication. Also their provider needs to be able to perscribe the medication that will work best for their patient, and worry about cost.
They need to be covered by insurance. Absolutley must be, whatever that takes. Also having breakable pills are nice since you can get twice the number out of the
They need to build trust.
They need to look at everyone as individuals...what works for one person may or may not work for the next person.
They only understand profit and shareholders
They should provide the BEST medications - not just the CHEAPEST! They are playing with people's quality of life, and the potential risk of suicide. Drug companies need to be more careful, and consider individuals needs. Not everyone is the same.
They think we are stupid and will fall for their corny ads on TV or fancy packaging.
They view people as a label with a DSM diagnosis. We are people too. We may have issues but please see us as people. Please test your drugs before using the MHMR community as guinea pigs.
They were ignorant of these severe side-effects.
True side effects and true effectiveness
We are individuals and not every drug will work for every person.
We are not all the same. Also, stop advertising that their drugs are so great and then list all of the side effects that are negative. You start thinking that the particular drug may work for you and then the side effects stop you from taking it.
We don't need to be numb, or "made easier to manage". We need genuine HELP, and understanding, in a world that doesn't have patience or creativity. The only hope on the horizon is epi-genetics - and they'll probably screw that up too.
We need as much information as possible
We need national healthcare with prescription coverage.

**25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use**

We thank you for making the medications and doing the research to cure/help medical conditions. I just wish that the cost would not be so much. I suffer from anxiety, depression, social agoraphobia, panic disorder and sometimes reg. agoraphobia.

We're people, not tools for your profits.

When you are sick it is hard enough to get yourself to the Dr. and they make getting assistance so hard I need help to jump through all the hoops

While they are trying to make money by convincing Doctors to prescribe their medication... they should remember that it is our MINDS that they are messing with. Behavioral health is not a joke and my brain and my happiness is not just a source of income.

Why must they be so expensive? Are there really any significant differences between each type of medication?

Why they must concentrate on making an income from doctors when they make a good income and asking doctors for a kickback should be illegal

Working in a state mental hospital always looking for information for consumers. Pharm. companies offer many good resources but the majority get thrown away because we can not distribute resources geared to a specific medication or pharmaceutical company

You CAN'T reproduce the chemicals in the brain! And when a new drug comes out, the majority of those who need it can't afford it.

As a young adult dealing with a mental health disorder, I don't think PCs understand the fear that I will need these pills for life and PCs don't have any idea what the long-term effects will be on me at 65 as opposed to 25.

Cost

Depression does not improve when given a medication that makes us sweat like pigs, gain weight, have our hair fall out, give us acne, make us zombies, make us stupid, make us slur our speech etc.

Each person with a mental disorder has a unique issue and that is why more than one medication is often used.

great vulnerability; a person has to fully trust & it may alter their wellbeing, personality, ability to work & be in relationship w/ family, ect. Also the stigma that is assoc; unlike any other medicine or disease.

I really do not believe that what we think is even relevant to their considerations about marketing and profit.

I think they do not understand that the cost of the medication prevents many people from being able to obtain necessary medication.

I think they understand everything well. They just don't care about consumers.

I think they understand us perfectly. We are all numbers and cases to them right? What isn't logical about that. But more than being a human I am also a being. I if everyone is dead there will be no more people to control.

I'm not sure

Most people who use them and need them can't afford them.

no response

People get hooked on the medications and trying to wean off of them is extremely hard if not impossible. Once you take them for any length of time, it is too hard to

Pharma employees have both helped and harmed us, your neighbors. We want the most care with the least side effects. We want pharma employees to be instruments of healing, deep care, people who serve by the golden rule.

Pharmaceutical corporations do not know the consequences of ingesting a drug BEYOND six months.

see above [question 24 comments],

side effects can truly be disabling

That most of the time, the side effects are not worth it.

That people need to have the best generic possible. I was on one for three weeks then the company changed the formulary on an extended release med and I nearly had to call 911 due to a severe reaction. Generics can be a gamble to those sensitive to meds.

that the people who may use them can't afford the cost

That the people who use them often don't understand the side-effects and many times aren't aware of other treatments available. Many "go along" because they think they have no other choices or other options.

That we are dependent on those medications to the point of being willing to live. That true suffering is involved, especially if the doctor is not sufficiently trained to handle multiple and complex medication combinations.

That we are normal people with significant problems, who should not be treated any differently than someone with a heart problem or a broken bone.

**25) What is the most important thing you think the pharmaceutical companies don't understand regarding psychiatric medications and the people who use**

That when we ask the company questions about a drug, do not send us a letter from their lawyer. They act like they are going to get sued.

the actual effects of the drugs- do they even know their own medications- do they know the effects or are they purely interested in pushing products that meet their

the consequences of their profiteering in the lives of people who live with these illnesses, potential for victimization and the fact that while med use is up....so is the suicide rate among those who are identified as psychiatric patients

The importance of making clear all side effects. That many new medications are way too expensive.

the long term side effects of some of the newer medications.

The meds often don't work and the side effects are intolerable.

There are many other options available via alternative health and healing

There are normal, transient changes in mood or behavior for which medication is not appropriate. In such cases, the person should be denied medication and directed to other means of coping.

There is still a big stigma, and most people still don't understand what depression and bipolar illnesses are about

There regulations

They are so eager to manage symptoms that they do not stress starting on low doses...they do not take indiv differences seriously and worst of all, they minimize the seriousness of the side-effects...

They are very potent and potentially harmful drugs that have unique effects, both good and bad, on every individual. When they work, they treat symptoms, not

They don't understand that they are people; They are treated as lab rats with hair falling out- losing their reputation and relationships and even pushed to medicate themselves in unhealthy ways!

They don't want to even try to understand anything about people who consume these products. They do not care, AT ALL.

They ignore side effects that create co-morbidity issues, they always pushing "new" drugs that are worse than the old ones. They don't bother to find out what acceptable side effect parameters are

They underestimate the affect of the side effect profile on the population. Somnolence and weight gain are tremendous problems

Those of us that have been helped the most feel betrayed, because sometimes we have to try a number of meds. Find a couple that do work and when the insurance says "No", then what-hell.

Trying out new medication is a horrific task. There are some many side effects. And the fear of whether the drug will affect your life is immense. If the drug is unsuccessful it is terribly disheartening. %99 percent of the drugs I tried did not work.

Weights, They need to have more than just a starting level for every person and go to this level. They need to test and tell the differences between females and males by seperating them in the big book. also come clean w/ all results from testing.

your dr. wants to switch you from meds that work to the new med that works better and cost more and you end up back in the depths of depression and trying to hang on with all you have because you just dont care anymore