

Prescribing Antipsychotic Medications?

Monitor Patients With Care



Antipsychotic medications are effective in treating symptoms of certain mental health illnesses such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. They may also be prescribed for symptomatic relief for a range of other emotional problems. Despite benefits for many, antipsychotics may have significant side effects such as:

- Considerable weight gain and obesity-related complications
- Cardiovascular issues such as hypertension
- Diabetes
- Hypercholesterolemia
- Movement disorders

It's important to perform a metabolic baseline test and ongoing annual testing for all patients (children through adults) who take antipsychotic medications.

Metabolic testing must include both LDL-C and HbA1c annually.

CPT® Codes: (Children)	HbA1c Tests: 83036, 83037, 3044F, 3045F, 3046F Glucose Tests (other): 80047, 80048, 80050, 80053, 80069, 82947, 82950, 82951 LDL-C Tests: 80061, 83700, 83701, 83704, 83721, 3048F, 3049F, 3050F
CPT® Codes: (Adults)	HbA1c Tests: 83036, 83037, 3044F, 3045F, 3046F Glucose Tests (other): 80047, 80048, 80050, 80053, 80069, 82947, 82950, 82951 LDL-C Tests: 80061, 83700, 83701, 83704, 83721, 3048F, 3049F, 3050F

Remember BEFORE Prescribing:

- Ensure patients have received a physical exam and have been appropriately diagnosed
- Confirm that an alternative course of treatment does not exist
- Collaborate with and refer patients to mental health specialists/providers
- If intended as a short-term intervention, note the Stop Date, and schedule the follow-up
- Educate patients about possible side effects such as weight gain, movement disorders, and other risks
- Tell patients why it's important to keep appointments with all treatment providers and for preventive health care

Next Steps...

Talk with your patient about:

- How to take the medications, how they work, and expected benefits
- How long the patient should take medications
- Why it's important to keep taking medication even if the patient begins feeling better
- Schedule appointments for continued monitoring and metabolic testing
- Ensure appointment reminders are provided
- Continue to assess for medication side effects
- Educate patients on what to do if they have questions, concerns, or are considering stopping the medication

This document is an informational resource designed to assist licensed healthcare practitioners in caring for their patients. Healthcare practitioners should use their professional judgment in using the information provided. HEDIS® measures are not a substitute for the care provided by licensed healthcare practitioners and patients are urged to consult with their healthcare practitioner for appropriate treatment. HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

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