

**Office of Integrated Health
Health & Safety Information**

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Psychotropic Medication Side Effects

*The information included in this safety alert is intended to help you identify possible side effects individuals may be experiencing,
So that they can be more consistently recognized and reported.*

*There are also additional tools that can be used to help caregivers and clinicians to assess psychotropic side effects in individuals.
These screening tools are included in the last section of this alert.*

All medications have side effects. Side effects can be harmful or not depending on the medication, dose and characteristics of individual such as overall health, family history and adherence to medical regimen.

Studies show that clinicians consistently underestimate the rate of side effects resulting from antipsychotic medication, and patients and caregivers consistently under-report side effects to the prescriber.

It is important that when a psychotropic medication is prescribed, the medical professional prescribing the medication obtain, and document the receipt of, informed consent from the individual and or their legal authorized representative or guardian.

"Informed consent" means the voluntary written agreement of an individual, or that individual's authorized representative, to surgery, electroconvulsive treatment, use of psychotropic medications, or any other treatment or service that poses a risk of harm greater than that ordinarily encountered in daily life or for participation in human research. To be voluntary, informed consent must be given freely and without undue inducement; any element of force, fraud, deceit, or duress; or any form of constraint or coercion.

<http://register.dls.virginia.gov/details.aspx?id=6997>

The provider should maintain documentation that the medical professional prescribing the medication obtained consent of the medication. The process for this should be clearly outlined in the policies and procedures of the agency.

Many individuals may lack the communication skills to report side effects and others may have an illness or condition which has impaired their ability to communicate. Therefore, the medical and nursing professional, caregivers and family need to know what side effects they need to monitor.

Information on the side effects of medications should be maintained on – site. They can be obtained from the prescriber or the pharmacy at the time the medication is prescribed. Recommended web based sources are listed in the references section of this alert.

The following is a detailed overview:

PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS

PSYCHOSTIMULANTS

- Medications that help release chemicals in the brain by stimulating the central nervous system.

BRAND NAMES (generic names):

Adderall (methamphetamine & dextroamphetamine)
Concerta (methylphenidate)
Daytrana (methylphenidate - skin patch)
Dexedrine (dextroamphetamine sulfate)
Equasym (methylphenidate)
Metadate (methylphenidate)
Provigil (modafinil)
Vyvanse (lisdexamphetamine)

Benzedrine (amphetamine)
Cylert (pemoline - removed from the market)
Desoxyn (methamphetamine hydrochloride)
Dextrostat (dextroamphetamine)
Focalin (dexmethylphenidate)
Methylin (methylphenidate hydrochloride)
Ritalin (methylphenidate)

SIDE EFFECTS:

Agitation
Dry mouth
Increased irritability

Nervousness
Fast, pounding, or irregular heartbeat
Restlessness

NEWER ANTIDEPRESSANTS

(Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors or SSRIs)

- The newer antidepressants, Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) emerged in the late 1980s/1990s, marketed as being capable of selectively targeting the re-uptake of the chemical serotonin, found in the brain. It is believed that levels of serotonin in the body influences depressive tendencies.

BRAND NAMES (generic names):

Akarin (citalopram)
Seropram (paroxetine)
Tolrest (sertraline)
Zoloft (sertraline)
Cipram (citalopram)
Citopam (citalopram)
Faverin (fluvoxamine)
Fluctine (fluoxetine)
SSRI'S CONTINUED...

Aropax (paroxetine)
Seroxat (paroxetine)
Veritina (fluoxetine)
Celexa (citalopram)
Cipramil (citalopram)
Dumyrox (fluvoxamine)
Floxyfral (fluvoxamine)
Fluocim (fluoxetine)

Seroplex (escitalopram)
Sipralaxa (escitalopram)
Deroxat (paroxetine)
Cipralax (citalopram)
Psiqual (fluoxetine)
Eufor (fluoxetine)
Prisdal (citalopram)
Sercerin (sertraline)

Fluox (fluvoxamine)
Gladem (sertraline)
Lexapro (escitalopram)
Lustral (sertraline)
Luvox (fluvoxamine)

Fluvox (fluvoxamine)
Ladose (fluoxetine)
Lovon (fluoxetine)
Paroxat (paroxetine)

Prozac (fluoxetine)
Sarafem (fluoxetine)
Pexeva (paroxetine)
Paxil (paroxetine)

SNRIs (Serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors)

BRAND NAMES (generic names):

Cymbalta (duloxetine)	Dalcipran (malnicipran)
Dobupal (venlafaxine)	Efectin (venlafaxine)
Effexor (venlafaxine)	Faxine (venlafaxine)
Ixel (malnicipran)	Pristiq (desvenlafaxine)
Yentreve (duloxetine)	

SNRIs (Selective norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors)

BRAND NAMES (generic names):

Edronax (reboxetine)	Merital (nomifensine)
Norebox (reboxetine)	Strattera (atomoxetine)
Vestra (reboxetine)	

NDRIs (Norepinephrine-Dopamine Reuptake Inhibitors)

BRAND NAMES (generic names):

Odranal (bupropion)	Wellbutrin (bupropion)
Zyban (bupropion)	

OTHER

BRAND NAMES (generic names):

Desyrel (trazodone)	Dutonin (nefazodone)
Nedafar (nefazodone)	Remeron (mirtazapine)
Serzone (nefazodone)	Symbyax (fluoxetine and olanzapine antidepressant/antipsychotic mix)

SIDE EFFECTS

- ✓ Agitation and/or mood swings
- ✓ Constipation
- ✓ Emotional numbing
- ✓ Anxiety,
- ✓ Nervousness
- ✓ Fast heart beat
- ✓ Pounding heart beat
- ✓ Irregular heartbeat
- ✓ Drowsiness

OLDER ANTIDEPRESSANTS

(Including Tricyclics, Tetracyclics and MAOIs)

BRAND NAMES (generic names):

Adapin (doxepin)	Anafranil (clomipramine)
Asendin (amoxapine)	Aventyl (nortriptyline)
Elavil (amitriptyline)	Endep (amitriptyline)
Etrafon (amitriptyline)	Janimine (imipramine)
Maneon (amitriptyline)	Norpramin (desipramine hydrochloride)
Nortilen (nortriptyline)	Pamelor (nortriptyline)
Pertofrane (norpramin)	Saroten (amitriptyline)
Sinequan (doxepin)	SK-Pramine Oral (imipramine)
Surmontil (trimipramine maleate)	Tofranil (imipramine)
Triavil (amitriptyline)	Triptazine (amitriptyline)
Triptil (protriptyline)	Tryptizol (amitriptyline)
Tryptanol (amitriptyline)	Vivactil (protriptyline hydrochloride)

TETRACYCLICS

BRAND NAMES (generic names):

Avanza (mirtazapine)	Ludiomil (maprotiline hydrochloride)
Remergil (mirtazapine)	Tolvon (mianserin)
Zispen (mirtazapine)	

MAOIS

BRAND NAMES (generic names):

Aurorix (moclobemide)	Emsam (selegiline - skin patch)
Manerix (moclobemide)	

OTHER

BRAND NAMES (generic names):

Eutonyl-ten (pargyline)

SIDE EFFECTS

- ✓ Constipation
- ✓ Confusion
- ✓ Excitement
- ✓ Anxiety
- ✓ Nervousness
- ✓ Drowsiness
- ✓ Numbness
- ✓ Tingling
- ✓ Weight gain

ANTIPSYCHOTICS

(Major Tranquilizers or Neuroleptics)

BRAND NAMES (generic names):

Haldol (haloperidol)	Lidone (molindone)	Loxitane (loxapine)
Mellaril (thioridazine hydrochloride)	Moban (molindone)	Navane (thiorixene)
Nozinan (methotrimeprazine)	Orap (pimozide)	Permitil (fluphenazine)
Prokazine (carphenazine)	Prolixin (fluphenazine)	Repoise (butaperazine)
Serentil (mesoridazine besylate)	Sparine (promazine)	Stelazine (trifluoperazine)
Taractan (chlorprothixene)	Thorazine (chlorpromazine)	Tindal (acetophenazine)
Trancopal (chlormezanone)	Trilafon (perphenazine)	Vesprin (triflupromazine)

NEWER ANTIPSYCHOTICS

BRAND NAMES (generic names):

Abilify (aripiprazole)	Clozaril (clozapine)
Geodon (ziprasidone)	Invega (paliperidone)
Leponex (clozapine)	Risperdal (risperidone)
Serlect (sertindole)	Seroquel (quetiapine)
Symbyax (fluoxetine and olanzapine - antidepressant/antipsychotic mix)	Zeldox (ziprasidone)
	Zyprexa (olanzapine)

SIDE EFFECTS

- ✓ Anxiety
- ✓ Blurred vision
- ✓ Dizziness
- ✓ Dry mouth
- ✓ Excess sweating
- ✓ Increased salivation or drooling

ANTI-ANXIETY DRUGS

(Called Minor Tranquilizers, benzodiazepines or Sedative Hypnotics)

BRAND NAMES (generic names):

Ambien (zolpidem)	Ativan (lorazepam)
Azene (clorazepate)	BuSpar (buspirone)
Centrax (prazepam)	Champix (varenicline - in the UK)
Chantix (varenicline - in the U.S.)	Dalmane (flurazepam)
Doral (quazepam)	Equanil (meprobamate)
Halcion (triazolam)	Klonopin (clonazepam)
Lexomil (bromazepam)	Lexotan (bromazepam)
Lexotanil (bromazepam)	Librax (chlordiazepoxide)
Libritabs (chlordiazepoxide)	Librium (chlordiazepoxide)

Anti-anxiety drugs continued...

Lunesta (eszopiclone)	Miltown (meprobamate)
Niravam (alprazolam)	Paxipam (halazepam)
Placidyl (ethchlorvynol)	Prosom (estazolam)
Reepam (prazepam)	Restoril (temazepam)
Rivotril (clonazepam)	Rohypnol (flunitrazepam)
Rozerem (ramelteon)	Seconal (secobarbital)
Serax (oxazepam)	Serepax (oxazepam)
Serestra (oxazepam)	Sonata (zaleplon)
Stesolid (diazepam)	Stilnox (zolpidem)
Temesta (lorazepam)	Tranxene (clorazepate)
Valium (diazepam)	Versed (midazolam)
Verstran (prazepam)	Vistaril (hydroxyzine)
Xanax (alprazolam)	Vomiting

SIDE EFFECTS

- ✓ Amnesia
- ✓ Dizziness or lightheadedness
- ✓ Dry mouth
- ✓ Fatigue/Drowsiness/Weakness
- ✓ Weight changes
- ✓ Stuffy Nose

LITHIUM

BRAND NAMES (generic names):

Cibalith-S (lithium)	Eskalith (lithium)
Lithane (lithium)	Lithobid (lithium)
Lithonate (lithium)	Lithotabs (lithium)

SIDE EFFECTS

- ✓ Weight Gain
- ✓ Mild hand tremors
- ✓ Weakness
- ✓ Dry Mouth/Altered Taste Perception
- ✓ Lack of coordination

****HIGH ALERT SIDE EFFECTS****

Akathisia: A, meaning “without” and kathisia, meaning “sitting,” an inability to keep still. Patients pace about uncontrollably.

- ❖ **This side effect has been linked to assaultive, violent behavior.**

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome: A potentially fatal toxic reaction where patients break into fevers and become confused, agitated and extremely rigid.

- ❖ **An estimated 100,000 Americans have died from it after taking the older antipsychotics.**

Tardive Dyskinesia: Tardive, meaning “late” and dyskinesia meaning, “abnormal movement of muscles.”

- ❖ **Tardive Dyskinesia is a permanent impairment of the power of voluntary movement of the lips, tongue, jaw, fingers, toes and other body parts.**
- ❖ **SEE DBHDS Alert on Tardive Dyskinesia**

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- National Institutes of Health, National Library of Medicine (2019). Medline Plus database. Retrieved from <https://medlineplus.gov/>
- U.S. Food & Drug Administration (2019). Drugs @ FDA database. Retrieved from <http://www.fda.gov/drugsatfda>

Reputable Web- based Resources

National Institutes of Health, National Library of Medicine (2019). Medline Plus database. Retrieved from <https://medlineplus.gov/druginformation.html>

- MedlinePlus is the National Institutes of Health's Web site. Medline Plus is produced by the National Library of Medicine, the world's largest medical library.

Drugs.com (2019). Find drugs and conditions database. Retrieved from <https://www.drugs.com/>

- Drugs.com has a searchable database and is the largest, most widely visited, independent medicine information website available on the Internet.

U.S. Food & Drug Administration (2019). Drugs @ FDA database. Retrieved from <http://www.fda.gov/drugsatfda>

- The Drugs@FDA website includes a searchable database of most of the drug products approved since 1939

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