

## 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 • Diabetes • Cardiovascular issues such as hypertension • Hypercholesterolemia • Movement disorders<sup>1</sup>

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.

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

### Remember BEFORE Prescribing

- Ensure patients have received a physical exam and been appropriately evaluated and diagnosed, and 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 like weight gain, movement disorders, and other risks that must be monitored with regular blood tests.
- Tell patients why it's important to keep appointments with all treatment providers and for preventive health care.

Talk with your patient about:

- How to take the medications, how they work, and expected benefits.
- How long the patient should take them.
- 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 or concerns or are considering stopping the medication.

<sup>1</sup> National Library of Medicine: [Ment Health Clin](#), 2021 Nov; 11(6): 311–319.

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).

\*2024 ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes \*\*CPT copyright 2024 American Medical Association (AMA). All rights reserved. CPT is a registered trademark of the AMA.