

**PROTOCOL FOR: Antipsychotic Medications: Care of the Patient by APRN**

**DESIRED PATIENT**

- OUTCOMES:**
1. The patient will experience a reduction in identified symptoms.
  2. Side effects/complications will be identified and appropriately managed.
  3. The patient will verbalize an understanding of medication treatment.

**CLINICAL  
ASSESSMENT AND**

- CARE:**
1. **Physical Examination:**
    - a. The patient will be referred for a physical examination if none has been done in the last year or if this is the patient's first episode.
    - b. Consult with patient's primary care provider as clinically appropriate.
    - c. Refer patient for a physical examination every 1-3 years and as clinically appropriate.
  2. **Clinical lab work/tests:** Before starting a patient on antipsychotic therapy, the following baseline tests are recommended:
    - a. CPB with differential and platelet count
    - b. Liver function tests (LFTs): GGT, AST, ALT, LDH, Alk Phos, total and direct bilirubin
    - c. Thyroid profile or TSH
    - d. Pregnancy test as clinically indicated
    - e. Fasting glucose and lipid profile
    - f. EKG (as necessary)
    - g. Baseline weight
  3. **Ongoing Monitoring:**
    - a. When appropriate, EKG annually and as clinically indicated
    - b. CBC with differential and platelet count yearly and as clinically indicated
    - c. Liver function tests yearly and as clinically indicated
    - d. Thyroid profile or TSH yearly and as clinically indicated
    - e. Fasting glucose and lipid profile yearly and as clinically indicated
    - f. Prolactin level as clinically indicated

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- g. AIMS every 6 months and as clinically indicated
  - h. Weight gain
  - i. Seroquel therapy: Eye exam every 6 months to a year and as clinically indicated
  - j. Clozaril therapy:
    - Requires weekly WBC and Absolute Neutrophil Count (ANC) for 6 months
    - Then monitor WBC/ANC every other week
    - After 6 months, if WBC/ANC results are stable, monitor WBC/ANC every month
    - Refer to Clozaril prescribing information located in the latest edition of the Physician's Desk Reference. Look for Frequency of Monitoring and Resuming Monitoring Frequency after Interruption in Therapy.
    - Appropriate forms must be completed and submitted to the pharmacy who forwards them to the appropriate registry
4. Medication administration: (SEE "*Guidelines for: Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), Prescriptive Authority for Psychiatric Patients*")
5. Side effect management: Ongoing monitoring and management of emergent side effects (including extra pyramidal symptoms, dystonia, akathisia, tardive dyskinesia)

**PATIENT**

- TEACHING:**
1. Discuss the risks/benefits of antipsychotic medication with the patient.
  2. Medication teaching to include the following:
    - a. Proper use of medications
    - b. Precautions while taking antipsychotic medication
    - c. Possible side effects
    - d. Need for lab follow-up
    - e. Avoid alcohol and illicit drugs
    - f. Clinician and patient responsibilities and consequences of misuse

- DOCUMENTATION:**
1. Document discussion of risks/benefits of antipsychotic medication.
  2. Document medication teaching.

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3. Document the AIMS.

APPROVAL: Nursing Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/06

REVISION DATES: 6/07, 8/08, 10/08

REVIEWED DATES: 8/09