



## ANTIPSYCHOTIC - INFORMED CONSENT FOR MEDICATION

<u>Medication Category:</u> Antipsychotic Medication (also called neuroleptic drugs or “major tranquilizers”)	<u>Medications in this Category:</u> chlorpromazine (Thorazine); fluphenazine (Prolixin); haloperidol (Haldol); loxapine (Loxitane); mesoridazine (Serentil); molindone (Moban); perphenazine (Trilafon); prochlorperazine (Compazine); thioridazine (Mellaril); thiothixene (Navane); trifluoperazine (Stelazine)
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Anticipated dosage range \_\_\_\_\_

About your medicine: Antipsychotic medications are used to treat nervous, mental, and emotional conditions. The exact mechanism of action of antipsychotic agents is not fully understood. It is believed antipsychotic agents work by blocking dopamine, a chemical messenger in the brain. They can improve concentration and self control, decrease auditory hallucinations, and decrease paranoia.

Side Effects: Every drug is capable of producing side effects. Many antipsychotic agent users experience little or no side effects. The frequency and severity of side effects depend on many factors including dose, duration of therapy and individual susceptibility. Possible side effects include:

More Common: Blurred vision, changes in menstrual period, constipation, dry mouth, weight gain, drooling, drowsiness. Extrapyramidal side effects: restlessness, shuffling walk, stiffness of arms and legs, shaking of hands and fingers, muscle spasms.

Less Common: Dizziness, lightheadedness, skin rash, decreased sexual ability, nausea or vomiting, nasal congestion, sensitivity to sunlight.

Precautions: **Tardive dyskinesia:** Involuntary and uncontrollable movements may develop in patients treated with these drugs. Unlike the extrapyramidal side effects described above, these movements may be permanent. Occurrence is highest among the elderly, especially women. The risk of developing these involuntary movements and the likelihood they will become permanent seems related to the length of treatment and the total amount of medication used. However, it is possible to develop these symptoms after short-term treatment at low doses. **Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS):** A potentially fatal syndrome associated with antipsychotic drugs. Symptoms include: increased body heat, muscle rigidity, altered mental abilities, catatonia, irregular pulse and blood pressure, increased heart rate, sweating and irregular heart rhythm.

- If a dose is missed, take it as soon as possible. If several hours have passed or if it is nearing time for the next dose, do not double the dose in order to “catch up” (unless advised to do so by your doctor).
- May cause drowsiness. Use caution while driving or performing other tasks requiring alertness.

- Be aware that these medications will increase the effect of alcohol or other drugs that cause drowsiness. When taking antipsychotic medications a single drink of alcohol or a single beer will cause more intoxication than if you were not taking medication.
- Discontinue drug at the first appearance of wheezing, breathing difficulty or chest tightness. Contact your doctor immediately
- Notify your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant or if you are breast-feeding. These medications have not been determined to be safe for pregnant women.
- Keep out of the reach of children.

By my signature below, I give consent for the above-named medication to be administered and for a change of medication within this medication category. My signature also indicates that I am aware of, have read and discussed the reasons for the use of this medication, and its potential risks and benefits.

Client Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_