

Criteria Indicating Need for Further Review of a Child's Clinical Status

The following situations indicate a need for further review of a patient's case. These parameters do not necessarily indicate that treatment is inappropriate, but they do indicate a need for further review.

For a child being prescribed a psychotropic medication, any of the following suggests the need for additional review of a patient's clinical status:

1. Absence of a thorough assessment of DSM-IV diagnosis in the child's medical record
2. Four (4) or more psychotropic medications (polypharmacy) prescribed concomitantly (side effect medications are included in this count)
3. Prescribing of:
4. Two (2) or more concomitant antidepressants (if an additional one is used, may be reviewed but will be allowed if reasonable for the indications).
5. Two (2) or more concomitant antipsychotic medications
6. Two (2) or more concomitant stimulant medications^{1,i}
7. Three (3) or more concomitant mood stabilizer medications

NOTE: For the purpose of this document polypharmacy is defined as the use of two or more medications for the same indication (i.e., specific mental disorder).

8. The prescribed psychotropic medication is not consistent with appropriate care for the patient's diagnosed mental disorder or with documented target symptoms usually associated with a therapeutic response to the medication prescribed.
9. Psychotropic polypharmacy for a given mental disorder is prescribed before utilizing psychotropic monotherapy.
10. The psychotropic medication dose exceeds usual recommended doses.
11. Psychotropic medications are prescribed for children of very young age, including children receiving the following medications with an age of:
 - Antidepressants: Less than four (4) years of age
 - Antipsychotics: Less than four (4) years of age
 - Psychostimulants: Less than three (3) years of age
12. Prescribing by a primary care provider who has not documented previous specialty training for a diagnosis other than the following (unless recommended by a psychiatrist consultant):
 - Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD)
 - Uncomplicated anxiety disorders
 - Uncomplicated depression

*When switching psychotropics, medication overlap and cross-titration may be utilized before discontinuing the first medication.

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