

Psychotropic medication

Any medication capable of affecting the mind, emotions, and behavior.

From the Greek psycho-, the mind + trop, a turning = (capable of) turning the mind

From MedicineNet.com

What are Psychotropic Medications

Examples of psychotropic medications

- **Sleep Aids** (Ambien, Lunesta)
- **Antidepressant** (Lexapro, Prozac, Wellbutrin, Celexa, Cymbalta, Effexor, Paxil)
- **ADD/ADHD Medications** (Adderall, Concerta, Ritalin, Straterra)

What are Psychotropic Medications

Examples of psychotropic medications

- **Mood Stabilizer** (Depakote, Lamictal, Trileptal)
- **Anti-anxiety** (Valium)
- **Antipsychotic** (Abilify, Seroquel, Haldol, Risperdal)

What are Psychotropic Medications

“[Psychotropic] Medications treat the symptoms of mental disorders. They cannot cure the disorder, but they make people feel better so they can function.”

-National Institute of Mental Health website

Psychotropic Medication Purpose

Doses vary as there are several factors that affect how the medication works

- Age, Gender and Weight
- Physical Illness
- Diet
- Drinking/Smoking
- Other Medications
- Diagnosis
- Genetics

Dosage

• It is important that Medications are taken as prescribed

- Dosages can be adjusted as needed over time by psychiatrist/physician
- Time medication is taken can be adjusted as needed by psychiatrist/physician
- Often with a new medication the dosage will be increased gradually

• It may take from 4-8 weeks for a medication to have full effect

Dosage

NEVER, EVER...DON'T DO IT:

START a medication

OR

STOP a medication

OR

CHANGE dosage amount or time given

Without a written doctor's prescription and talking to FCSVA Case Manager



• Completed when **ANY** medication is given to a child (including prescription, psychotropic and over-the-counter)

• Filled out **EACH** time the medication is given

Medication Log

- **Initial** Each Time You Administer a Medication
- Fill Out **Completely**
- Due to Child's Case Manager by the fifth of the following month

Medication Log

- FCSVA must have a copy of the prescription for ALL medication prescribed
- For non-psychotropic medications, a copy of the pharmacy document or actual prescription
- For a psychotropic medication, FCSVA must have an actual copy of the prescription (Each Time psychiatrist/physician writes one)

Prescription Medications

- FCSVA **Must** have a **Signed** consent to administer psychotropic medication on file for **EACH** medication and dosage **BEFORE** it can be given to the foster child
- FCSVA **Must** have a copy of the Actual prescription for **EACH** medication and dosage **BEFORE** it can be given to the foster child

Special Considerations: Psychotropic Medications

NEVER, EVER...DON'T DO IT:



START a psychotropic

OR

CHANGE dosage amount or time given

Until FCSVA has a signed Consent to Administer and copy of prescription on file

- When the child goes on respite
 - ALL medication should be given to respite foster parent
 - Medications must be taken in original containers, so that respite foster parent can see prescription instructions
 - Medication Logs must be completed by respite foster parents.

Medications and Respite

NEVER, EVER...DON'T DO IT:



SEND medication in plastic bag

OR

LEAVE medication packed with cloths

OR

LET child store medicines

- Download Medication Logs and Consent to Administer Forms off FCSVA's website
 - www.fcsva.org
- National Institute of Mental Health
 - <http://www.nimh.nih.gov>
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
 - <http://www.nami.org>

Resources