

# **Your Child and Psychiatric Medications**



**University of Nebraska Public Policy Center  
State of Nebraska Medicaid**

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Medication can be an important part of treatment for some psychiatric disorders in children and youth. Families should be provided with complete information when medication is part of their plan of treatment. Consistent evaluation and monitoring of the medication by a physician is also necessary. Families and their child need to be fully informed about medications. Your child should be included in discussions about their medications in a way they understand.

Included in this brochure are some questions regarding your child's medications. Families should ask these questions before their child starts taking psychiatric medications.

If you still have serious questions or doubts about medication treatment, you should feel free to ask for a second opinion.

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AA/ADA/EOE*

**Nebraska Federation of Families for  
Children's Mental Health**  
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## Questions to consider asking your physician or pharmacist...

### General:

1. For what is my child being treated?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How will this medication help my child?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the name of the medication?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What other names might this medication have? \_\_\_\_\_  
Does it have a generic? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the cost of the medication (generic vs. brand name)? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What are the common side effects?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Dosage:

1. What dosage will they be taking?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How often should they take the medication? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Should it be taken with food or on an empty stomach? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Are there dietary restrictions or other medications (prescription or over the counter) that should be avoided?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Medical:

1. How long before we see improvements?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Will my child experience temporary changes while adjusting to the medication?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What do I do if a problem develops (if my child becomes ill, doses are missed, or side effects develop)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Is this medication addictive? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Can it be abused? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Are there any warning signs of abuse of the drug? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Are there tests that need to be done before beginning to take the medication?  
\_\_\_\_\_ If yes, what tests? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Will tests need to be done while on the medication? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, what tests? \_\_\_\_\_
9. How will the medication be monitored and how often? \_\_\_\_\_
10. How often should we refill the medication? \_\_\_\_\_ Is a new written prescription needed? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Does this medication require a hand-written

prescription or is it refillable by phone or fax? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Who needs to give out the medication?  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Where does the medicine need to be kept (securely)? \_\_\_\_\_
14. How long will my child be on the medication? \_\_\_\_\_
15. How will the medication be discontinued?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. When do we need to come in again to check on the medicine? \_\_\_\_\_



### For more information, contact:

State of Nebraska Medicaid Office:  
<http://www.dhhs.ne.gov>  
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Nebraska Federation of Families for  
Children's Mental Health  
(402) 441-4369