

Reviewing and tapering antipsychotic medicines for changed behaviour

Completed by th	ne referring health	n professior	nal on /	/
Non-pharmacological interventions				
Duration	Prescrib	per	Last rev	viewed
			/	/
12 weeks with	out improvem	nent in ta	rget beha	viours.
n antipsychoti	c medicine.			
dicine.				
aviour worseni	ing, PRN use).			
	ing, PRN use).			
			GP on /	/
aviour worseni		reviewing (/
aviour worseni	Completed by the	reviewing (/
aviour worseni	Completed by the	reviewing (/
aviour worseni	Completed by the	reviewing (/
aviour worseni	Completed by the	reviewing (/
aviour worseni	Completed by the	reviewing (/
aviour worseni	Completed by the	reviewing (/
ONS (see over) C	Completed by the	reviewing (sional /	/
ONS (see over) C	Completed by the Plan (providence)	reviewing (sional /	/
Completed by 2-3 weeks aft	Completed by the Plan (providence)	reviewing (sional /	/
Completed by 2-3 weeks aft	Completed by the Plan (providence)	reviewing (sional /	
Completed by 2-3 weeks aft	Completed by the Plan (providence)	reviewing (sional /	/
Completed by 2-3 weeks aft	Completed by the Plan (providence)	reviewing (sional /	/
Completed by 2-3 weeks aft	Plan (providence) the reviewing heter recommendate	reviewing (de detai	sional /	/
	Non-ph Duration 12 weeks with since last GP/s	Non-pharmacologi Duration Prescrib 12 weeks without improvem since last GP/specialist review mantipsychotic medicine.	Non-pharmacological inter Duration Prescriber 12 weeks without improvement in ta since last GP/specialist review of antipm antipsychotic medicine.	Duration Prescriber Last rev / 12 weeks without improvement in target beha since last GP/specialist review of antipsychotic remantipsychotic medicine.

Reviewing response to therapy^{1,2}

- ▶ Where appropriate, use behaviour charting and validated tools* to measure the impact of antipsychotic medicines on target behaviours.
- ▶ Use the same tools at each review to document behaviour changes in response to therapy. For example, Neuropsychiatric Inventory (NPI) clinician and nursing home subscales may be useful.
- ▶ Utilise monitoring tools currently available at your facility.
- Keep records of review including this form and any completed tools in the patient's file.
- * For more information on appropriate tools for monitoring changed behaviour including the NPI, visit the Dementia Outcomes Measurement Suite (DOMS) at https://dementiaresearch.org.au/resources/doms/

Tapering an antipsychotic medicine^{1,3}



To begin tapering, reduce the dose by 25-50% every 2 weeks.



Monitor weekly while tapering and record observed changes in behaviour.



If the target behaviours recur at any point during tapering, consider increasing to the previous lowest effective dose.



Stop the medicine after 2 weeks on the minimum dose.



After stopping:

- ▶ If the target behaviours are no worse when the antipsychotic medicine is stopped, maintain non-pharmacological approaches.
- If the target behaviours recur, reassess for potential causes and review non-pharmacological approaches.

References

- 1. Clinical practice guidelines and principles of care for people with dementia. Sydney: Guideline Adaptation Committee, 2016.
- 2. Behaviour management. A guide to good practice. Sydney: Dementia Collaborative Research Centre, 2012.
- 3. Bjerre LM et al. Can Fam Physician 2018;64:17-27

nps.org.au