



Shared Care Guideline for Antipsychotics

Recommendations:

This shared care guideline covers the assessment and treatment of patients who are prescribed antipsychotics for the treatment of mental health indications. It details the responsibilities when care for the patient is to be shared or transferred between primary care and specialist services.

Introduction

The intention to share care will be explained to the patient by the clinician initiating treatment. If shared care is not agreed, then responsibility will remain with the clinician initiating treatment. The doctor who prescribes the medication assumes clinical responsibility ⁽¹⁾ for the drug and the consequences of its use. Responsibility for the follow-up and management of test results lies with the clinician who orders the test.

It is acknowledged that the detail contained within this guideline may need to be supplemented by individual communication between clinicians. Communication should be clearly documented or confirmed in writing.

Scope

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust and associated primary care practices.

Support for the use of these drugs comes from National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance ⁽²⁾ and The Maudsley Prescribing Guidelines ⁽³⁾. Guidance should be used in conjunction with the British National Formulary (BNF) ⁽⁴⁾ and the Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) ⁽⁵⁾ for the specific medication.

Guidance

Initiation

Following assessment, specialist mental health services will usually be responsible for initiation of antipsychotics. Where there is clear evidence of psychotic symptoms and an individual is refusing to attend secondary care services they may be initiated in primary care, but this will be only in exceptional circumstances and it is recommended that advice from specialist mental health services is sought. The clinician initiating an antipsychotic should complete the Shared Care Agreement (Appendix A) and liaise with the appropriate teams. This agreement should be explained to the patient by the initiating clinician.

Monitoring

Monitoring clinical outcomes and side effects will generally take place in specialist mental health services. Specialist mental health services will usually be responsible for dose adjustments. Physical health monitoring will generally take place in primary care. Monitoring should be consistent with NICE guidance ⁽²⁾ but will be detailed in the Shared Care Agreement for the individual patient.

Cessation

The decision to discontinue medication will usually be taken by specialist mental health services. Treatment may be stopped in primary care if the risk of continuing treatment outweighs the benefits. It is recommended that advice from specialist mental health services is sought in these circumstances. The clinician ending treatment is responsible for ending the Shared Care Agreement, and ensuring appropriate follow-up for the patient is arranged.

	Consultant/ Specialist Services Responsibility	GP Responsibility	Patient/ Carer Responsibility
Initiation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss options for treatment with patient • Consider capacity of the patient to consent to the treatment plan • Perform appropriate baseline tests before initiation • Consider interactions with currently prescribed medication • Initiate appropriate treatment in line with local formulary and guidelines and document rationale • Send a copy of the medication treatment plan to the GP • Complete the Shared Care Agreement and send to GP when shared care is desired • Arrange for prescriptions from secondary care or agree issue from primary care if appropriate • Ensure patient is aware of who supplies their medication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the request for shared care • If in agreement, complete the Shared Care Agreement and return to specialist services in a timely manner • When agreed, to provide regular prescriptions for antipsychotics as per guidance from specialist mental health services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise queries if unclear about rationale for treatment and discuss concerns with clinician in charge of care
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor compliance, response and side effects • Monitor the physical health of the patient as per guidance for the specific medication, until transfer of this monitoring to primary care is agreed • Adjust doses as required • Inform GP of changes to medication and patient's progress • Identify where patients disengage with services and make reasonable attempts to re-establish contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight compliance concerns with specialist mental health services • When agreed, monitor the physical health of the patient as per guidance for the specific medication, as detailed in the patient's Shared Care Agreement • Seek specialist advice promptly if concerns arise regarding mental state • Inform specialist services of any physical health problems or abnormal test results at the earliest opportunity • When initiating other medication, consider interactions with antipsychotics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with medication as agreed with clinician • Ensure to order repeat prescriptions in a timely manner • Engage with appointments • Participate in monitoring of therapy and report adverse effects • Inform clinicians of any non-prescribed or over-the-counter medication taken
Cessation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discontinue medication appropriately and safely where indicated • To consider when shared care is no longer appropriate or required and end the shared care agreement appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop treatment on advice of specialist, or immediately if risks outweigh benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion cessation of medication with clinician before stopping

Special Circumstances

- **Pregnancy planning or pregnancy:** Refer back to psychiatric services. Medication should only be prescribed if benefits outweigh risks. The UK Teratology Information Service can be contacted on Tel: 0844 892 0909 for specific advice relating to medicines prescribed in pregnancy.
- **Breastfeeding:** Refer back to psychiatric services for advice
- **Hepatic and renal impairment:** Refer to individual SmPCs
- **Children and adolescents:** Refer to specialist services
- **Elderly patients:** Refer to specialist services

Statement of Agreement

See appendices for Shared Care Agreement which should be sent by specialist services to general practice to be signed and dated at earliest opportunity.

Contact Information

Worcestershire:

Single Point of Access (SPA): 01905768490
North CARS: 01527 488440
South CARS: 01905734559
Crisis Team: 01905681915

Herefordshire:

North Rural Recovery Team: 01568 613202
South Rural Recovery Team: 01989 566345
City Recovery Teams/ Assertive Outreach/ Early Intervention: 01432 265123
Crisis and Home Treatment Team: 01432 364046

Pharmacy services: 01905 683225, WHCNHS.medicines@nhs.net

References:

1. General Medical Council 2013; Good practice in prescribing and managing medicines and devices
2. National Institute of Clinical Excellence guidance 2014; Psychosis and schizophrenia in adults: prevention and management
3. Taylor D, Barnes T, Young A (2018); Maudsley Prescribing Guidelines in Psychiatry, 13th Edition
4. Joint Formulary Committee (2019) *BNF 78: September 2019-March 2020*. London: Pharmaceutical Press
5. Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) can be found within the packaging of the specific medication, or on www.choiceandmedication.org.uk

H&W MPC Approved Date: 03/11/2020

Review Date: November 2023

Shared Care Agreement for Antipsychotics

To be completed by the psychiatrist initiating the therapy. A copy should be retained by the GP and a copy should be returned to the psychiatrist for uploading in the patients records.

Dear Dr _____

I am requesting your agreement to share the care of the patient named below in accordance with the approved Shared Care Guideline for antipsychotics.

Patient details:	
Name:	NHS number:
D.O.B:	Diagnosis:
Responsible Clinician:	Care Co-ordinator:

Medication details:
Name:
Formulation:
Dose:
Baseline test results: (can alternatively attach a copy of the most recent reports instead)
Shared Care Request: (Detail tests required and frequency)

If you are in agreement with shared care for this patient, I will reassess the patient in ___ weeks and send you a written summary.

If you have any concerns about the treatment or monitoring arrangements, please contact me to discuss **before** returning this document.

I confirm I have explained to the patient, the risks and benefits of treatment, the baseline tests conducted, the need for monitoring, how monitoring will be arranged, and the roles of the consultant, GP, pharmacist and patient in shared care. I confirm the patient has understood and is satisfied with this shared care arrangement at this time. This has been recorded in the patients records.

Psychiatrist Details:	
Name:	Signature:
Department/ Team:	Date of request:
Hospital:	Email:
Direct telephone number:	

When emailing patient data please ensure you send from your nhs.net address to the recipients nhs.net address. This is the only secure way to send / receive confidential information.

GP response to shared care

This form is to be completed by the GP who is sharing care. A copy should be retained by the GP and a copy should be returned to the psychiatrist for uploading in the patients records.

Patient details:	
Name:	NHS number:
D.O.B:	Medication Name:
Shared Care Request:	

I agree to accept shared care for my patient as given in the shared care agreement for antipsychotics.

I have discussed my concerns with the consultant psychiatrist but have decided that I will NOT agree to shared care for this patient.

My reason(s) are given below:

Please note that GP agreement is voluntary, with the right to decline to share care if for any reason you do not feel confident in accepting clinical responsibility. Refusal should not be for financial reasons and the cost of the drug is NOT a barrier to sharing care. All prescribers will want to keep reasonably up-to-date with important developments in therapeutics. Practitioners have a duty to keep themselves informed of the drugs that are recommended for their patients

GP name	Practice address /stamp:
Direct telephone number:	
Email:	
Date:	Signature:

Please return a copy of both completed forms to the requesting psychiatrist

When emailing patient data please ensure you send from your nhs.net address to the recipients nhs.net address. This is the only secure way to send / receive confidential information.