

## Using the Guidelines Answer Key

**1. What page will help you determine the prescribing standards for a child who is 13 years old?**

Appendix A, pages 1 and 2 outline the prescribing standards for youth who are 12-17 years old.

**2. What are all the potential complications and side effects for Conventional Antipsychotics?**

Appendix B, page 11 indicates that Serotonergic Antidepressants have the following potential complications and side effects:

Agitation, restlessness, Bipolar (manic) switching, Withdrawal symptoms on discontinuation  
Serotonergic syndrome, Obesity, Headache, Sweating, Sleep disturbance, Gastrointestinal problems  
Sexual dysfunction

And the following Cautions and Contraindications:

Allergy to drug, liver failure, pregnancy/breast feeding, do not use with MAOI's

\*\*\*NOTICE THE SOMEWHAT HIDDEN WARNING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE THAT READS: "Antidepressants may increase suicidality (thoughts or behaviors) in children, teenagers and young adults during initiation.

**3. According to the *Guidelines*, who is responsible for obtaining informed consent?**

The Informed Consent section on Page 11 indicates that the "...the prescriber informs the child, family, and caregiver of the risks and benefits of the proposed treatment and the risks and benefits of alternative treatments, including absence of treatment." However, it is important to remember that it is the social worker's responsibility to be sure this happens and that they child, family, and caregiver understand what they have been told by the prescriber.

**4. Sometimes doctors prescribe medication to treat a symptom other than the medication's indicated use. This is called off label or black box prescription. Where in the *Guidelines* can you find information about the challenge of off-label or "black box" prescription?**

The document recommends that all "off-label" prescribing should have peer-reviewed, published evidence available to support its use. Found on Page 4 of Appendix C. This document describes many of the challenges that occur in psychiatric diagnosis and prescribing for foster youth. It is a good resource for determining when consultation or additional support should be requested.

**5. What are the three sections of the Prescribing Algorithm (Decision Tree)? Follow-up question, what is Section C actually used for?**

- Before prescribing, have the following concerns been considered
- When prescribing, consider the following
- If this is not the first prescription for psychotropic medication for this child, periodic evaluation of treatment efficacy and tolerability should occur, as described above. At each subsequent appointment for medication management, this evaluation includes the review of the following

Section C in the Decision Tree is a checklist of items to be evaluated at medication monitoring appointments. It can be used by the clinician who prescribed the medication, but is also a useful guide for gathering much of the important information for Progress Reviews in the JV-220 process.

**6. How do the *Guidelines* documents connect with the JV-220 Process?**

The *Guidelines* and the tools in the Appendices are supportive of the information required in the JV-220 Process forms. The *Guidelines* can inform the entire treatment team regarding expectations and best practices.