

# Patient Care When Prescribing Antipsychotic Medications



## Prescribing Antipsychotic Medications? Monitor Patients With Care.

Antipsychotic medications are effective in treating symptoms of certain mental health illnesses such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. They may also be prescribed for symptomatic relief for a range of other emotional problems. Despite benefits for many, antipsychotics may have significant side effects such as:

- ▶ Considerable weight gain and obesity-related complications
- ▶ Diabetes
- ▶ Cardiovascular issues such as hypertension
- ▶ Hypercholesterolemia
- ▶ Movement disorders

It's important to perform a metabolic baseline test and ongoing annual testing for all patients (children through adults) who take antipsychotic medications. Metabolic testing must include both LDL-C and HbA1c annually.

## CPT® Codes

Children**	
HbA1c Tests	83036, 83037, 3044F, 3045F, 3046F
Glucose Tests (other)	80047, 80048, 80050, 80053, 80069, 82947, 82950, 82951
**LDL-C Tests	80061, 83700, 83701, 83704, 83721, 3048F, 3049F, 3050F

  

Adults	
HbA1c Tests	83036, 83037, 3044F, 3045F, 3046F
Glucose Tests (other)	80047, 80048, 80050, 80053, 80069, 82947, 82950, 82951
LDL-C tests	80061, 83700, 83701, 83704, 83721, 3048F, 3049F, 3050F

## Remember BEFORE Prescribing:

- ▶ Ensure patients have received a physical exam, have been appropriately evaluated, diagnosed, and an alternative course of treatment does not exist.
- ▶ Collaborate with and refer patients to mental health specialists/providers.
- ▶ If intended as a short-term intervention, note the Stop Date, and schedule the follow-up.
- ▶ Educate patients about possible side effects like weight gain, movement disorders, and other risks that must be monitored with regular blood tests.
- ▶ Tell patients why it's important to keep appointments with all treatment providers and for preventive healthcare.

## Next Steps:

Talk with your patient about:

- ▶ How to take the medications, how they work, and expected benefits.
- ▶ How long the patient should take their medication.
- ▶ Why it's important to keep taking medication even if the patient begins feeling better.

Additionally:

- ▶ Schedule appointments for continued monitoring and metabolic testing.
- ▶ Ensure appointment reminders are provided.
- ▶ Continue to assess for medication side effects.
- ▶ Educate patients on what to do if they have questions or concerns or are considering stopping the medication.