

## What is an antipsychotic medication?

An antipsychotic medication is a type of medicine that is used to treat certain health conditions. These include mental health conditions such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or severe depression. Antipsychotic medicines may also be used to treat other mental health conditions, such as severe anxiety disorder, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (called ADHD), or obsessive compulsive disorder (called OCD).

## What are metabolic side effects?

Like any medication, an antipsychotic medication can cause side effects. Some of these side effects are called metabolic side effects. Metabolic side effects mean that your child/the child in your care's body can stop handling sugar and fat like it should. This means that their body may not be able to move sugar and fat out of the blood and into the body cells. If the sugar and fat stay in the blood, the body cells won't have the energy and building blocks they need. If there is too much sugar and fat in the blood, blood vessels can also be damaged or blocked. This can cause diseases like diabetes and heart disease. These diseases can lead to serious health problems.

## Why does my child/the child in my care need lab tests?

Their doctor will recommend that they have some lab tests done while they are taking an antipsychotic medication. These lab tests help their doctor to see if they are having any metabolic side effects to their medication.

## What are the lab tests needed?

The lab tests are done to find out how your child/the child in your care's body handles glucose (sugar) and cholesterol (fat-like substances). The tests will measure how much glucose and cholesterol are in their blood.

## Have More Questions? We're Here to Help!

Contact us by phone:

- If your child/the child in your care is a Care4Kids member, please call 1-855-371-8104.
- If your child/the child in your care is a Chorus Community Health Plans member, please call 1-877-227-1142.

**This sheet was created to help you care for your child/the child in your care. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up.**