



Division: Pharmacy Services	Subject: Prior Authorization Criteria
Original Development Date: Original Effective Date: Revision Date:	May 7, 2015 February 24, 2017, November 7, 2022

HIGH DOSE ANTIPSYCHOTIC CRITERIA

LENGTH OF AUTHORIZATION: UP TO 3 MONTHS

The High Dose criteria is derived from the Florida Medicaid Adult Psychotherapeutic Medication Guidelines found at the following link: <https://floridabhcenter.cbcs.usf.edu/adult-guidelines/2019-2020-florida-best-practice-psychotherapeutic-medication-guidelines-for-adults/>

Tapering Considerations:

Antipsychotic high dose prescribing should only be considered in exceptional cases for a time-limited trial after all evidence-based approaches have failed. After a 3-month trial, the high dose should revert back to conventional levels unless the clinical benefits outweigh the risks (*for example a 5% dose reduction every 1-2 weeks may be reasonable*).

REVIEW CRITERIA (ALL OF THE FOLLOWING BELOW IS REQUIRED):

- 1) Diagnosis must be Treatment Resistant Schizophrenia
- 2) Age must be ≥ 18 years
- 3) Failure of dose optimized, antipsychotic monotherapy;
 - a. Trials of at least two different agents
 - b. Adequate trial duration of at least 4 consecutive weeks
(*6-8 weeks may be required for optimal response*)
AND
 - c. Failure of a long-acting depot antipsychotic
AND
 - d. Failure to respond to clozapine* trial OR contraindication to clozapine
 - e. If partial response to clozapine then augmentation with a second antipsychotic has been tried
- 4) Documented compliance with all antipsychotic trials
 - a. Plasma blood levels are within the therapeutic range (if available)
 - b. Prescription claims history indicates compliance
- 5) Rule-out of other causes for non-response in compliant patients, i.e. substance abuse, concurrent use of other medications, and physical health conditions
- 6) Safety monitoring plan is documented

<https://floridabhcenter.cbcs.usf.edu/adult-guidelines/2020-monitoring-physical-health-side-effects-of-psychotherapeutic-medications-in-adults-and-children-an-integrated-approach/>

***Clozapine Help Line** – Prescribers may call for a free consultation with a clozapine expert **at the Clozapine REMS (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy) Contact Center.**

Phone number: 1-888-586-0758

<https://www.newclozapinerems.com/home>