

# Haloperidol (Haldol™)

## ALAMEDA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

**Client's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Initial Medication Instructions** \_\_\_\_\_

**What does this medication help to treat?** Schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder or other conditions.

**Symptoms of these conditions are:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hallucinations (hearing voices)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Delusions (beliefs that are false)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fearful feelings</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Paranoia or suspiciousness</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Agitation, aggression, or hostility</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Poor concentration</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rapid thoughts</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pacing and restlessness</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fluctuations in mood</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Insomnia</li> </ul> |
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Haloperidol is sometimes prescribed for other uses; ask your health care professional for more information.

**Other information**

- This medication can take up to 6 weeks to achieve desired results, but you should begin to see improvement within the first two weeks of treatment.
- It is very important to keep all appointments with your clinic, prescriber, and laboratory.

### Side Effects and Management

#### Common (greater than 10 in 100 clients on this medication)

Drowsiness	Use caution when driving or operating machinery. Ask your prescriber about taking your dose at bedtime.
Muscle Side Effects, Restlessness	You may experience muscle stiffness, spasm, or restlessness. If this should happen, tell your prescriber so that your dose may be adjusted or a medication can be given to counteract these effects.
Dizziness	Arise slowly from chairs. Dangle feet off the side of the bed before getting up.

#### Uncommon (~1 to 10 in 100 clients on this medication)

Dry Mouth	Suck on sugarless gum or candy or melt bits of ice in your mouth. Call your prescriber if your mouth feels dry for more than 2 weeks.
Constipation	Drink plenty of water and increase fiber in your diet. Consult your prescriber about other treatments.
Upset stomach or vomiting	Try taking haloperidol with food.
Men: increased breast size or decreased libido	Let your prescriber know if you experience these effects. Your prescriber may need to adjust your dose.
Women: missed menstrual periods or milk production	Let your prescriber know if you experience these effects. Your prescriber may need to adjust your dose.
Abnormal Involuntary Movements	Let your prescriber know if you experience any abnormal muscle movements such as puckering of the lips, involuntary movements of the tongue, and involuntary, abnormal movements of the body and limbs.

#### Rare (less than 1 in 100 clients on this medication)

- Call your prescriber immediately if you experience any of these:
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Confusion</li> <li>▪ Difficulty breathing, speaking, or swallowing</li> <li>▪ Fast or irregular heartbeat (palpitations)</li> <li>▪ Unusual weakness or tiredness</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fever, confusion, extreme muscle stiffness</li> <li>▪ Uncontrollable tongue or chewing movements, smacking lips or puffing cheeks</li> <li>▪ Uncontrollable muscle spasms, in the face, hands, arms, legs, twisting body movements</li> </ul> |
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\*\*References: Clinical Psychopharmacology, LexiComp 2011\*\*

**Note:** This information is not intended to cover all possible uses, precautions, interactions, or adverse effects for this medication. If you have further questions about the medications you are taking. Check with your health care professional.