

QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT YOUR PSYCHIATRIC MEDICATIONS

Medication may be an important part of treatment for your psychiatric disorder. Psychiatric medication is only one part of a comprehensive treatment plan, including ongoing evaluation by a psychiatrist. It is important to provide your physician with complete information regarding your past treatments, medication response, and any current medications.

By asking the following questions, you will gain a better understanding of psychiatric medications:

1. What is the name of the medication? Is it known by other names?
2. What is known about its helpfulness with others who have a similar condition? How will the medication help me?
3. How long before I see improvement? When will it work?
4. What are the side effects which commonly occur with this medication?
5. What are the less common or serious side effects which can occur?
6. Is this medication addictive? Can it be abused?
7. What is the recommended dosage? How often will the medication be taken?
8. Are there any laboratory tests that need to be completed before I begin this medication? Will any tests need to be done while I am taking this medication?
9. Are there any medications or food I should avoid while taking this medication?
10. How long will I be taking this medication? How will the decision be made to stop this medication?