

**Having an informed consent discussion with your child's provider:  
Key Questions to Ask About  
Your Foster Child's Mental Health Medications**

1. What is the name of the medication? Is a generic version available?
2. What is my child's diagnosis? What diagnosis or symptoms is this medication supposed to treat?
3. Is this medication FDA approved for use in children?
4. What is the evidence for using this medication in my child?
5. Are there other medications that can treat this diagnosis or these symptoms?
6. What type of therapy could treat these diagnoses or symptoms?
7. How, when, and for how long should this medication be taken? Should it be taken with food?
8. Are there any laboratory tests (blood tests, heart tests, etc.) need to be done before or while my child takes the medication?
9. Does my child need to take each of their medications? When could my child stop taking this medication?
10. What side effects are most common? What side effects are most dangerous?
  - a. What should I do if my child experiences any of these side effects?
11. Will the medication interact with other medications (prescription or over-the-counter medication) my child currently takes?
12. What should we do if my child misses a dose?
13. Can this medication be addictive?
14. Additional questions/comments for antipsychotic medications:
  - a. Will you check my child's weight, cholesterol, and a blood sugar before we start an antipsychotic medication?
  - b. Does my child show any unusual movements of his face or body?
  - c. Ask the provider to check weight at each visit. Ask the provider to check a cholesterol and blood sugar every 6 month

**Additional questions/comments:**

Ask for written information about the medications from the office or pharmacy.

Call 911 and/or poison control if your child overdoses or attempts suicide by taking medication.

*\*Adapted from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: **Supporting Youth in Foster Care in Making Healthy Choices: A Guide for Caregivers and Caseworkers on Trauma, Treatment, and Psychotropic Medications**, by*

Children’s Bureau et al. (2015), Washington, DC: Author  
([https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/mhc\\_caregivers.pdf](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/mhc_caregivers.pdf))