

## **Fact Sheet On Assessment And Management Of Psychosis In Adult Persons With Mental Retardation And Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD)**

1. Psychosis is a disorder of thought and perception.
2. Symptoms of psychosis include hallucinations, delusions, and paranoia.
3. Hallucinations can occur in any sensory modality but auditory and visual hallucinations are most common.
4. Psychotic symptoms are more frequent in persons with mental retardation than the general population.
5. Psychotic symptoms can be produced by delirium, depression, mania, schizophrenia, and as components of seizures.
6. New-onset of psychotic symptoms requires a medical evaluation to exclude delirium.
  7. Tactile hallucinations are suggestive of delirium or seizures.
  8. Olfactory hallucinations can occur with temporal lobe seizures.
  9. Patients with severe or profound mental retardation who cannot explain internal events may manifest behavioral symptoms of psychosis in response to hallucinations, such as resistiveness, elopement, yelling, etc.
10. Antipsychotic medications are indicated to suppress psychotic symptoms which produce distress or dangerous behaviors.
11. Symptom control rather than total eradication is the measure of success for treatment of psychosis.