

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

1. Psychosis is a common disorder produced by many medical, psychiatric or environmental causes.
2. Therapy of psychosis depends on the cause of psychosis.
3. Management of psychosis produced by schizophrenia usually requires prescription of appropriate doses of second or third generation antipsychotic medications.
4. Therapy of psychotic depression requires treatment with antidepressants and a brief course of antipsychotic medications when indicated.
5. Management of psychosis produced by mania may require prescription of mood stabilizers and antipsychotic medications for a variable length of time.
6. Psychotic symptoms produced by delirium are improved with treatment of the underlying cause of delirium.
7. Second and third generation antipsychotic medications are the treatment of choice for psychosis.
8. Dosage of antipsychotic medications depends on the patient's body size, age, intellectual function and physical or neurological problems.
9. Antipsychotic medications typically require a minimum of six weeks to reduce psychotic symptoms.
10. Prescription of antipsychotic medications requires careful monitoring of cognitive, neurological, and medical side effects.
11. The goal of antipsychotic therapy is symptom control rather than total eradication of hallucinations or delusions.
12. Physicians should document in the medical record, their discussion with family or patients about medication side effects.