



Division: Pharmacy Services	Subject: Prior Authorization Criteria
Original Development Date: Original Effective Date: Revision Date:	May 7, 2015 February 24, 2017, November 7, 2022, January 24, 2024

## HIGH DOSE ANTIPSYCHOTIC CRITERIA

### **LENGTH OF AUTHORIZATION:** UP TO 3 MONTHS

The High Dose criteria is derived from the Florida Medicaid Adult Psychotherapeutic Medication Guidelines found at the following link: <https://floridabhcenter.org/adult-guidelines/florida-best-practice-psychotherapeutic-medication-guidelines-for-adults/>

### **Tapering Considerations:**

Antipsychotic high dose prescribing should only be considered in exceptional cases for a time-limited trial after all evidence-based approaches have failed. After a 3-month trial, the high dose should revert back to conventional levels unless the clinical benefits outweigh the risks (*for example a 5% dose reduction every 1-2 weeks may be reasonable*).

### **REVIEW CRITERIA (ALL OF THE FOLLOWING IS REQUIRED):**

- Diagnosis must be Treatment Resistant Schizophrenia
- Age must be  $\geq 18$  years
- Failure of dose optimized, antipsychotic monotherapy;
  - a. Trials of at least two different agents
  - b. Adequate trial duration of at least 4 consecutive weeks  
(*6-8 weeks may be required for optimal response*)

**AND**

- c. Failure of a long-acting depot antipsychotic

**AND**

- d. Failure to respond to clozapine\* trial OR contraindication to clozapine.
- e. If partial response to clozapine then augmentation with a second antipsychotic has been tried
- Documented compliance with all antipsychotic trials
  - a. Plasma blood levels are within the therapeutic range (if available)
  - b. Prescription claims history indicates compliance
- Rule-out of other causes for non-response in compliant patients, i.e. substance abuse, concurrent use of other medications, and physical health conditions
- Safety monitoring plan is documented  
<https://floridabhcenter.cbcs.usf.edu/adult-guidelines/2020-monitoring-physical-health-side-effects-of-psychotherapeutic-medications-in-adults-and-children-an-integrated-approach/>

\***Clozapine Help Line** – Prescribers may call for a free consultation with a clozapine expert at the Clozapine REMS (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy) Contact Center. Phone number: 1-888-586-0758  
<https://www.newclozapinerems.com/home>