

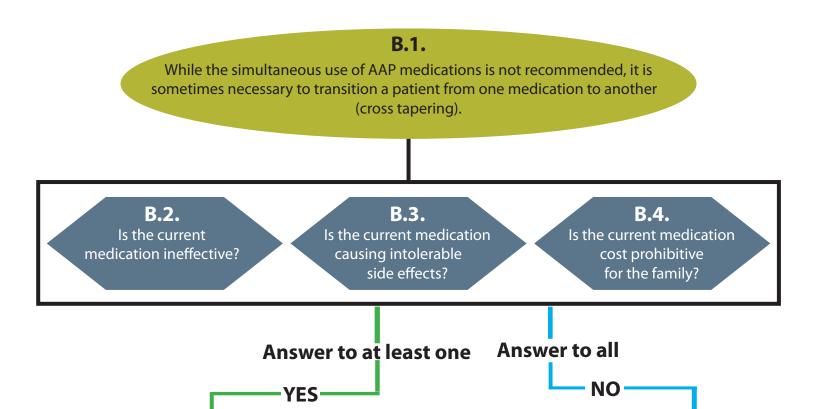


## Avoiding Use of More than One Atypical Antipsychotic (AAP) Medication in Children Under 18 Years of Age

## **PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES**

- Prescribing more than one AAP medication is not recommended for the following reasons:
  - There is little to no evidence that it is advantageous in children and adolescents.
  - Increased risk of side effects and drug interactions.
  - Increases difficulty to assess drug efficacy, safety and tolerability.
  - Impairs a clinician's ability to identify the cause and manage adverse reactions (e.g., tardive dyskinesia, extrapyramidal symptoms).

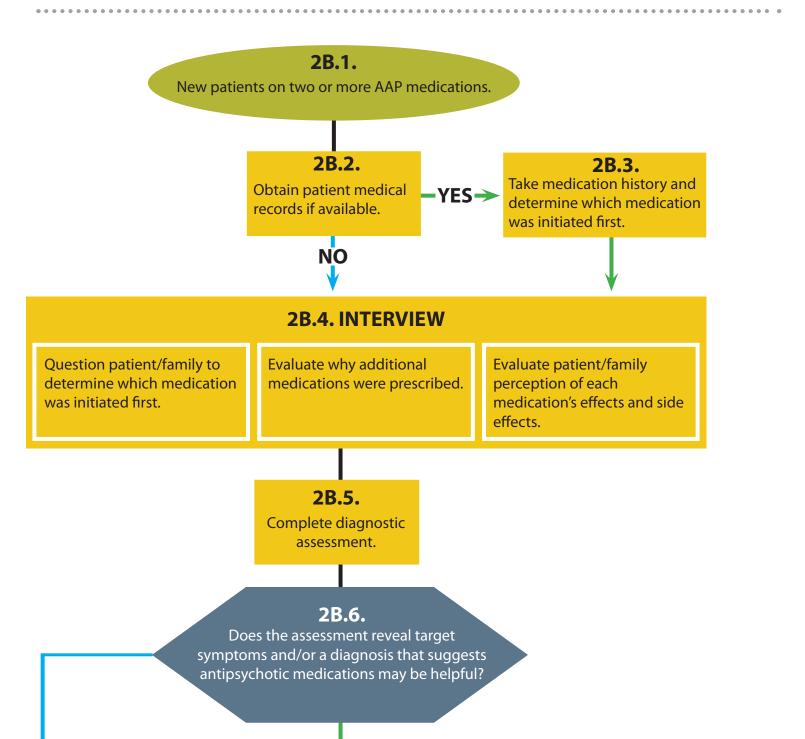
- May reflect a lack of diagnostic clarity in an attempt to treat difficult symptoms or side effects.
- Consult PPN/specialist if contemplating prescribing a second, simultaneous AAP medication.
- The potential benefits and risks of psychotropic medication use must be weighed against the risks of untreated illness.
- Caution is recommended in prescribing psychotropic medications to children and adolescents given that their long term consequences are poorly understood.





Wean off medication or cross taper to a new medication over no more than six weeks. (See AAP Adverse Effect Table.)





## **2B.7. EVALUATE PATIENT FOR ADVERSE EFFECTS**

YES

- Check height, weight, BMI and waist circumference.
- Check pulse and blood pressure.

NO

- Assess for abnormal and involuntary movement.
- Consider fasting blood sugar and lipid profile.
- If indicated, EKG, A1C hemoglobin test or check prolactin.

