

Medications may be useful in treating symptoms of pediatric mental health conditions. In most cases medications are used along with evidence based psychosocial treatments. Discuss all medications child's treatment team (doctor, pharmacist, and therapist). Additional resources can be found at www.utahpips.org/upop.

ADHD

Stimulant or non-stimulant medications may be helpful as part of the treatment for attention deficit/hyperactive disorder (ADHD). They come in several different forms, such as pills, patches, dissolvable tabs, and liquid forms. Most children respond well to a stimulant, and only need one medication to successfully treat ADHD.

Most Effective Medications for ADHD:

- Amphetamine Based: Dexedrine, Adderall, Vyvanse, Procentra
- Methylphenidate Based Concerta, Metadate, Ritalin, Focalin, Daytrana, Quilivant

Other Medications for ADHD:

- **Alpha-Adrenergic Agonist include:** Guanfacine (Tenex, Intuniv), and Clonidine (Catapres, Kapvay)
- **Non-stimulants include:** Atomoxetine (Strattera); Bupropion (Wellbutrin) and Imipramine (Tofranil) are used in adults, but rarely used for ADHD in children/adolescents

Side effects of Stimulants:

- **Stimulants:** Feeling nervous or irritable, sleep problems (insomnia), mood changes, fast heart rate, changes in blood pressure, loss of appetite, weight loss, nausea, stomach pain, or headache.
- **Alpha-agonists:** dizziness, low blood pressure, sedation, lightheadedness when standing up (orthostatic hypotension)
- **Non-stimulants:** ask your child's doctor about the side effects from these medications

Monitoring & Safety:

All of the above medications can influence heart rate and blood pressure as well as weight loss. Attend scheduled visits to the doctor to evaluate response to medications and to monitor heart rate and blood pressure along with height, weight and BMI. A child on might experience trouble sleep. Monitor your child's sleep patterns and encourage good sleep practices also known as sleep hygiene. It is important to let the fostering health children's nurse and the child's doctor know if your foster child experiences any of the side effects. Refer to the resource below for specific medication information.

Resources:

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP):

https://www.aacap.org/App_Themes/AACAP/docs/resource_centers/resources/med_guides/parentsmedguide_2013_adhd.pdf