

Informed Consent for Psychotropic Medication Treatment for your child: Understanding of Clinical Treatment Guidelines and Collaboration between Medical Psychologist and Physician

Your child will be seen for the purposes of medical/ psychopharmacological intervention (meaning psychological treatment with medication, if indicated). The Medical Psychologist will manage any psychotropic medications he/she has prescribed for your child. The Medical Psychologist will work in collaboration and in concurrence with your child's referring or attending physician.

Your child will undergo an evaluation by a Medical Psychologist. This process typically considers information provided to the doctor via a diagnostic interview, behavioral observations, and data obtained from laboratory and psychological instruments. A diagnosis may be updated or changed, consistent with standards of care and any pattern of emerging and clinically valid evidence.

The medical psychologist's diagnostic impressions and treatment recommendations will be communicated with the parent/caregiver. If pharmacological interventions are recommended as part of the treatment plan, a decision to medicate your child will be made collaboratively between parents/caregivers and the medical psychologist to improve your child's functioning. Medications can reduce or alleviate symptoms, but do not cure illnesses. The goal of treatment is to maximize benefits and minimize risks.

The medical psychologist will carefully review the medication(s) with the parent/caregiver and provide information about potential side effects. Please understand that in certain situations, taking medication may cause physical and emotional discomfort to your child, could worsen your child's condition, or in rare instances, may even cause more serious complications such as potential misuse, abuse, or addiction and dependency; permanent damage; or death. Many prescribed medications do not have FDA-approval specifically for use in children.

You are expected to work closely with your prescribing doctor and understand it is your responsibility to discuss the effects the medication is having on your child so that he/she can continue to assist the parent/caregiver in ensuring the health and progress of the child's development. Please make sure that your child has taken his/her prescribed medication(s) at each follow-up appointment with the medical psychologist so that vital signs can be monitored.

Notify your doctor in advance before personally making any changes to the agreed-upon treatment plan, including adjusting dosages and/or discontinuation of use, so that any changes will be made with the doctor's approval and supervision. This is done to ensure your child's safety. Inappropriate drug discontinuation can pose serious problems.