## Antipsychotic Side-effects *Checklist* (ASC)

## A Tool for Facilitating Dialogue Between Patients and Mental Healthcare Providers

To be completed in the clinic

ASC is a new screening tool designed to be a user-friendly "checklist" of common and distressing side-effects associated with antipsychotic medications. ASC is meant to be flexible. You may either have your patients complete ASC with their caseworker and review their responses during your next session or you can complete ASC with your patient during an appointment. Either way, ASC can help you maintain an open dialogue with your patients about side-effects.

Patient name:	Date seen:
Comments:	
Next Steps:	



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Pr	roblem	Yes	No	Comments
1.	Loss of energy and drive: Have you had trouble moving, getting going, or starting things? Do you feel slowed down?			
2.	Feeling unmotivated or numb: Have you had trouble getting motivated or wanting to do the things you used to? (Sometimes people describe this as "feeling like a zombie.")			
3.	Daytime sedation or drowsiness: Are you tired or sleepy during the day? Feelings of tiredness can happen throughout the day or only at certain times.			
4.	Sleeping too much: Do you sleep too much? Do you feel you sleep for too long? Do you have a problem getting out of bed in the morning, or do you need to go back to sleep for a large part of the day?			
5.	Muscles being too tense or stiff: Do your muscles feel stiff or rigid? Do you feel cramps or muscle pains in the arms, legs, or neck?			
6.	Muscles trembling or shaking: Have you had any shaking or muscle-trembling?			
7.	Feeling restless or jittery: Have you had any feelings of restlessness? Do you ever feel like you want to "jump out of your skin"?			
8.	Need to move around and pace; can't sit still: Do you often need to get up and pace around? Do you have trouble sitting still? Do you rock from one leg to the other?			
9.	Trouble getting to sleep or staying asleep (insomnia): Do you have trouble falling asleep or getting to sleep when you want to? Do you wake up during the night, or wake up too early in the morning?			



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Problem		No	Comments
10. Blurry vision: Do you have blurry vision? Things may seem out of focus. People with blurred vision may have trouble with reading printed words in newspapers.			
<b>11. Dry mouth:</b> Is your mouth too dry? Does it feel like you have cotton in your mouth? Does it seem like your tongue sticks to the top of your mouth?			
12. Drooling: Do you have too much saliva (spit)? Is your pillow wet when you wake up?			
<b>13. Memory and concentration:</b> Do you have any memory problems? Are you more forgetful? Is it hard to concentrate? Do you find it hard to follow conversations, watch programs on TV, or read?			
14. Constipation: Do you have problems with constipation?			
<b>15. Weight change:</b> Have you had any changes in weight? Do you feel that you are overweight? Do you gain weight quickly, or cannot seem to go on a diet? Are your clothes getting too big or too small for you?			
16. Changes in sexual functioning: Do you have any sexual problems or difficulties? Sometimes people say they have problems with low sex drive. Some men say that they have difficulties with erections or ejaculation, and some women say that they have difficulty achieving orgasm.			
<b>17. Menstrual or breast problems:</b> If you should have regular menstrual periods, have you had any menstrual problems lately? Sometimes women stop having their normal periods, or have irregular periods. Have you had this problem recently? Sometimes there may be milk leakage from the breasts.			

For more information or to obtain additional Dialogue for Recovery materials, please contact your local Mental Health Association, or

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