

General guidelines and issues to consider regarding psychotropic medications for CRB reviews

Be familiar with the law (ORS418.517), rule (OAR 413-070-0400 thru 0490) and DHS policy (I-E.3.3.1) regarding psychotropic medications.

Be aware of the general issues, benefits and concerns regarding the use of psychotropic medication with foster children.

Be familiar with the procedural safeguards regarding psychotropic medication including: monthly documentation logs by the foster parent submitted to DHS, prior consent by the DHS Child Welfare Manager or designee before administering any psychotropic medication, assessment by a Qualified Mental Health Professional or Licensed Medical Professional within three months prior to administering more than one psychotropic medication or any anti-psychotic medication, and an annual review by a Qualified Mental Health Professional with prescribing authority or Licensed Medical Professional, other than the prescriber, for any child on more than two medications or under the age of six.

Where to look for information

310H Health Information for the Child in the following sections:

- DMAP Paid Medications
- Mental Health Services
- Psychotropic Medications

Treatment reports, Master Service Plans, Psychological Evaluations, Psychiatric Assessments/Notes, and CASA reports.

Questions to ask

- Ask appropriate parties at the review if they are aware of the child's current medications and possible side effects, warnings and signs to look for.
- Do the medications seem to be working?
- Are the child's medications being managed by a child psychiatrist on a regular basis? (as opposed to medical professionals with less training and experience on this issue)
- Has there been a mental health assessment and/or a psychological or psychiatric assessment for the child?
- Is the child engaged in counseling and/or other mental health services in conjunction with the psychotropic medication to address underlying issues?
- Have there been frequent changes in medication or diagnosis?
- Have all parties been informed in a timely manner in accordance with statute regarding changes in medications?
- Inquire as to whether the child's response to medication, including possible side effects is discussed during DHS face to face contacts with the child.
- Are medications being tracked appropriately and has the medication log been submitted to DHS by the foster parent and included in the case file in accordance with policy?
- Have the child and families cultural and personal values been assessed regarding the use of psychotropic medication?
- Have the procedural safeguards described above been followed?