

A Therapist's Guide to Recognizing Med Problems in Therapy-only Patients

Common Side effects:

New onset of any of these symptoms could be a drug reaction:



- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Rash
- Unusual lethargy
- Dizziness
- Confusion
- High/low blood pressure
- Unexplained Falls
- Vision changes
- Ringing in ears
- Unusually high or low blood glucose in a diabetic patient

Common problems:

- Forgets to take meds
- Can't afford to buy meds
- Meds are lost or stolen
- "Doesn't need" meds
- Doesn't want to take meds
- Doesn't understand what to take
- Doesn't understand when to take meds

Basic Solutions: Call in reinforcements!

- If the situation is life-threatening—CALL 911
- If the situation is severe or urgent—
Call the doctor, let him/her know what's happening, and possibly get a referral for nursing or other discipline.
- If the situation is mild or non-urgent—
Call your nurse manager for advice.



The comprehensive assessment, including a complete medication review and assessment, is a CMS-required Condition of Participation. Both CMS and APTA recognize a physical therapist as being capable and competent to perform a comprehensive assessment. The patient's med management is part of your comprehensive assessment.

YOU CAN DO IT!