



Effective Health Care Antipsychotics for ADHD Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Antipsychotics for ADHD will go forward for refinement as an update to or expansion of an existing systematic review. The scope of this topic, including populations, interventions, comparators, and outcomes, will be further developed in the refinement phase.
- When key questions have been drafted, they will be posted on the AHRQ Web site and open for public comment. To sign up for notification when this and other Effective Health Care (EHC) Program topics are posted for public comment, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/join-the-email-list1/>.

Topic Description

Nominator:	Public payer
Nomination Summary:	The nominator questions the effectiveness and safety of treating young children with ADHD with antipsychotics.
Key Questions from Nominator:	None

Considerations

- The topic meets all EHC Program selection criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) accounts for more referrals to mental health practitioners than any other childhood disorder. Historically, drug therapy of ADHD has primarily consisted of stimulant medications. More recently, many potential nonstimulant medication treatment alternatives, including the off-label use of atypical antipsychotics, have been identified.
- In January 2007, the EHC Program published a comparative effectiveness review that addressed the off-label use of atypical antipsychotics.

- Shekelle P, Maglione M, Bagley S, Suttrop M, Mojica WA, Carter J, Rolon C, Hilton L, Zhou A, Chen S, Glassman P. Comparative Effectiveness of Off-Label Use of Atypical Antipsychotics. Comparative Effectiveness Review No. 6. (Prepared by the Southern California/RAND Evidence-based Practice Center under Contract No. 290-02-0003.) Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. January 2007. Available at:

http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/ehc/products/5/63/Atypical_Antipsychotics_Final_Report.pdf.

The key questions from this report include:

1. What are the leading off-label uses of atypical antipsychotics in the literature?
 2. What does the evidence show regarding the effectiveness of atypical antipsychotics for off-label indications, such as depression?
 3. How do atypical antipsychotic medications compare with other drugs for treating off-label indications?
 4. What subset of the population would potentially benefit from off-label uses?
 5. What are the potential adverse effects and/or complications involved with off-label prescribing of atypical antipsychotics?
 6. What are the appropriate dose and time limit for off-label indications?
- This report did not previously include ADHD as an indication for the off-label use of antipsychotics. Recently, this report was prioritized for an update, and this update will include ADHD as an indication for use.