



# Antipsychotic Medication Adverse Drug Events (ADEs)

## Definitions

**CDC:** An adverse drug event (ADE) is when someone is harmed by a medicine.<sup>1</sup>

**CMS:** An injury resulting from drug-related medical interventions.<sup>2</sup>

## Quick Fact About ADEs<sup>2</sup>

- It is generally estimated that about **half** of ADEs are preventable.<sup>3</sup>

## Occurrences That Could Point to an Antipsychotic ADE<sup>2</sup>

- Transfer to hospital
- Call to physician regarding new onset of relevant signs or symptoms
- Addition of a new medication
- Removal of a medication

## Common Effects of Antipsychotic ADEs<sup>2</sup>



**Sedation**



**Falls or Unsteady Gait**



**Confusion**



**Orthostatic Hypotension**



**Loss of Facial Expressions**



**Parkinsonism**  
A neurological disorder resembling Parkinson's disease<sup>5</sup>



**Destabilized Blood Sugar**



**Anticholinergic Effects**  
Examples: dry mouth, constipation, urinary retention, bowel obstruction, dilated pupils, blurred vision, increased heart rate, decreased sweating, confusion



**Cardiac Arrhythmias**



**Tardive Dyskinesia**  
A neurological disorder characterized by involuntary uncontrollable movements especially of the mouth, tongue, trunk, and limbs<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/medicationsafety/adult\\_adversedrugsafety.html](https://www.cdc.gov/medicationsafety/adult_adversedrugsafety.html)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/QAPI/Downloads/Adverse-Drug-Event-Trigger-Tool.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://psnet.ahrq.gov/primer/medication-errors-and-adverse-drug-events>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/tardive%20dyskinesia#medicalDictionary>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/parkinsonism>

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