

Other Unusual Signs/Symptoms (specify):

Instructions:

1. It is critical to detect side effects associated with psychotropic and antiepileptic medication. One important step is for the people who live with or work with the person to report anything unusual to the health care professional.
2. Complete the scale on the date requested by the health care professional. If you wish, you may also complete the scale on your own or if you notice something unusual. Please remember this is not a replacement 11w immediately contacting the health care professional when a serious, pronounced, or emergency situation occurs.
3. Determine the score for each item based upon the past week (7 days). Over the past week, did you observe or notice any of the items? If the person is verbal, did he or she complain about any of the items?
4. Select the score 11w each item based upon what you actually see or what the person tells you. Do not ignore the item because you "know the person". For example, the person may constantly drool due to a jaw deformity. Because it occurs frequently, it would be scored "very much". Whether the drooling is different from what the person typically does is determined in the next step (in this case, it is not).
5. Determine as best as you can if the sign or symptom is different from what the person normally does, is usually like, has always done, or has always had a problem with. The following considerations may help. Quantitatively: Is it something not seen before? Is it more frequent than usual? Did he/she do it this much before? Is it more severe than before? Is it more intense than usual? Are we noticing it more lately? Are we paying a lot more attention to it? Are we spending a lot more time with it? Qualitatively: It never looked like this before. It looks different There's something unusual about it. Something's not right. He/she is not himself/herself It kind of worries me.
6. Provide the scale to the health care professional.
7. Please note many items are listed because many different kinds of medication are used with many different people. Not all of the items are caused by the medication the person is taking. Also remember just because an item is scored does not necessarily mean it is a side effect. Some other factor maybe involved. The goal at this point is to systematically report anything unusual to the health care professional so it can be checked and, if necessary, reviewed with the prescriber and pharmacist.

Adapted from and based upon: 1) Subjective treatment emergent symptoms scale (STESS) (1985). *Psychopharmacology Bulletin*, 21. 1073-1075; 2) Golman, H. (1972-1973). Interval and final rating sheets on side effects. Parent's interval rating sheet-side effects. *Psychopharmacology Bulletin*, 8-9 (special issue), 182-187; and 3) Gittelman, R. (unknown date). Weekly side effects form. New York, NY: Columbia University Medical Center. Not every sign or symptom is included, some items have been combined, and some items have been expanded.

This scale is not a complete listing of all possible adverse drug reactions or effects and is not a substitute for other appropriate professional health care responsibilities, assessments, or testing.