

Clinical Medication Consent Forms in Avatar Guide for Clinicians:

Translations of these scripts: [Chinese](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [Tongan](#)

NEW MEDICATION SCRIPT

**All paper versions of the consent forms are located at: <https://www.smchealth.org/consents>*

INTRODUCTION

Since you are agreeing to taking medication to help with your condition, I would like to review and explain some risks, benefits, and alternatives with you. **Is that okay?**

I would like to email you a copy of this consent once we are finished reviewing it together. **What is your email address?**

Note to clinician: **add email address to the “Update Client Data” form in Avatar. When you email the PDF version to the client put #sec# in the email subject line to encrypt. See email templates at the bottom of this document.*

The medication(s) that I would like to prescribe is/are _____

The reason for taking this/these medication is/are _____

This medication is taken by (route), the dose and frequency is _____

This/these medication should help you feel better and reduce _____

You may also experience some side effects. I would like to describe the possible side effects and what to do if you should experience them (see list below in this document).

Alternative treatments that can be beneficial (in conjunction with prescribed medication or in lieu of) are: other medications in the same category, therapy/counseling, peer support groups, behavioral interventions, exercise, healthy diet.

There may be possible drug interactions with other medications and drugs. Please let me know of any other medications you are taking. This includes recreational, over-the-counter drugs, or natural/herbal supplements.

For female clients: There may be potential medication risks to an unborn baby or a newborn being breast fed. Please inform me if there is any possibility or intention of becoming pregnant or nursing.

Because they alter the mind, alcohol and/or recreational/street/illicit drugs should be avoided. They can also cause dangerous interactions and can adversely affect the intended action of prescribed medications.

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Be aware that medications can impair the ability to drive or operate equipment. You should avoid driving or using heavy machinery until you know how the medication(s) prescribed affect you.

It is important that you take all medication as prescribed and not stop without talking with me first. Discontinuing medications, especially abruptly, can cause serious adverse effects.

Do you agree to take/administer the medication(s) as prescribed? This is especially important when starting new medications or when changing doses. Please contact me about any unusual or adverse side effects. Emergency services (911) should be contacted if adverse side effects are serious.

Did I answer all of your questions to your satisfaction? Do you agree, consent to, and accept the risks of treatment with the medication(s) that we talked about?

You have the right to refuse to take this/these medication. However, I do recommend them and think that they will help your symptoms. You may ask me questions or request additional information at any time.

Consent Form Side Effect Language to Review

*All side effects indicated below could happen after either short term or long term (> 3 months) of medication treatment. Best effort is made here to address notable or likely side effects, but not all possible side effects could be listed or even predicted. It is important to always inform your prescriber as soon as possible any side effects that occur.

Potential side effects that are of common concerns to many drugs: allergic reactions, nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness, fatigue, dry mouth, constipation, diarrhea, weight change, change in sleep and alertness, movement disorder, sexual dysfunction, birth defect, and when the medication use is >3months: osteoporosis, tardive dyskinesia, liver/kidney dysfunction, blood disorders; and ones below that are associated with a particular category of medication.

Antipsychotic: Additional possible side effects: increased blood sugar/lipids, blurred vision, restlessness, tremor, stiff muscles, neuroleptic malignant syndrome (high fever, rigidity, delirium, circulatory and respiratory collapse), seizures, irregular heart rhythm, increased risk of stroke and death in the elderly with dementia; treatment >3months: diabetes, metabolic syndrome, decreased blood cells, tardive dyskinesia (involuntary movements of the head, neck, limbs which may be irreversible and may appear after medications have been discontinued).

Antidepressant: Additional possible side effects: blurred vision, urinary retention, seizures, blood pressure dysregulation, irregular heart rhythm, mood changes, irritability, violence, suicidal thoughts and behavior (especially in youth); treatment >3months: sexual dysfunction, metabolic syndrome, tardive dyskinesia.

Antianxiety/Hypnotic: Additional possible side effects: trouble concentrating, confusion, clumsiness, loss of inhibition, adverse synergistic effect with alcohol and other drugs, including

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opioid analgesics; treatment >3months: tolerance/dependency, addiction.

Mood Stabilizer: Additional possible side effects: serious rash/mucosal blister, potentially life-threatening, confusion, liver/pancreas dysfunction, decreased blood cell, birth defects;
treatment >3months: hyponatremia, ovarian problems (valproic acid).

Lithium: Additional possible side effects: thirst, increased urination, tremors, birth defects;
treatment >3months: acne, thyroid disorder, kidney failure.

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Medication: Additional possible side effects: decreased appetite/growth, restlessness, blood pressure/heart rhythm dysregulation.
Atomoxetine: rare liver injury with possible jaundice, abdominal pain, dark urine, flu-like symptoms. Stimulants: psychosis, suicidal ideation, aggression, sudden unexplained death, primarily with (undetected) underlying cardiac structural abnormalities; treatment >3months: tolerance/dependency, addiction.

Anti-Parkinson Medication: Additional possible side effects: blurred vision, mental dulling, trouble urinating; treatment >3months: sexual dysfunction, glaucoma, bowel dilation.

Medication Assisted Treatment agents

Acamprosate

Additional possible side effects: anorexia, muscle weakness, lightheadedness, depression

Buprenorphine

Additional possible side effects: pain, sweating, feeling lightheaded, potential infections or liver complications

Buprenorphine/Naloxone

Additional possible side effects: pain, sweating, feeling lightheaded, mouth numbness or burning (film only), potential liver complications, withdrawal (shaking, stomach cramps, irritability, body aches).

Clonidine

Additional possible side effects: very low blood pressure / heart rate, withdrawal syndrome (rebound hypertension, flushing), lightheadedness & fainting; skin irritation, swelling, or tingling (patch application site), dry eyes or mouth, irritability, nightmares, abdominal pain or infection, dizziness, drowsiness.

Disulfiram

Additional possible side effects: drowsiness, metallic or bitter aftertaste, acne eruptions

Rare or serious side effects: nerve pain or damage, psychosis, rash, changes in liver function or liver failure

Nicotine Replacement

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Additional possible side effects: muscle pain, sleep disturbances, sore throat, mouth tingling (gum/lozenges), cough, local irritation, indigestion, hiccups, oral irritation, jaw pain (gum), chest pain

Nasal spray/inhaler: nasal congestion, runny nose, watery eyes, flushing, transient changes in sense of smell & taste, back pain, joint pain

Naltrexone (oral or IM)

Additional possible side effects: abdominal, muscle or joint pain & confusion. Oral: sedation, feeling nervous. IM injection: decreased appetite, dizziness, fainting, injection site reaction

Other possible side effects: may cause liver injury, depression, allergic pneumonia, vulnerability to opioid overdose, unusual thoughts/behavior

Varenicline

Additional possible side effects: abnormal dreams, malaise, behavior changes, sleep disturbances, absence or painful menstruation, change in taste, pain, passing gas, toothache