

# Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome

## (Information for Adults and Older Adolescents)

### An uncommon complication of treatment with antipsychotics

You have been prescribed a type of antipsychotic medicine (previously known as a neuroleptic medicine, hence the name of the syndrome). These include the medicines: amisulpride, aripiprazole, clozapine, lurasidone, olanzapine, paliperidone, quetiapine, risperidone and zuclopenthixol (amongst others).

If you are concerned over the next few days or weeks about your reaction to this medicine, do try to contact me, or your GP, to discuss it.

#### My contact details are:

However, if you develop:

- Body, arms and legs that feel unusually stiff - like a lead pipe
- Heart-rate (pulse) that varies its rhythm
- A faint feeling or you actually faint or collapse
- Confusion, become disorientated or have slurred speech
- A high temperature or become very hot and sweat a lot

**Then you should immediately attend the nearest hospital's Accident and Emergency Department for an urgent assessment.**

Take this sheet with you, or if you forget, make sure you tell the doctors there what medication you are taking. A blood test for creatinine kinase (CK) will need to be checked to ensure that you don't have this very rare reaction to the medicine. I must stress that this is uncommon. It is estimated that only 1 in 500 patients receiving treatment with antipsychotics may suffer from this side effect.

This is unlikely to affect you but it is important that you are aware of it. Other side effects are detailed in the accompanying patient information leaflet.

More detailed information about Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome is available on the following website:

<https://patient.info/doctor/neuroleptic-malignant-syndrome>

**If you require this leaflet in another format such as large print, audio or other community language please contact the Trust's Communication Team on 01903 843129 or by emailing: [info@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk](mailto:info@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk)**