Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome
(Information for Parents)

An uncommon complication of treatment with antipsychotics

Your child has 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, haloperidol, olanzapine, quetiapine, risperidone and zuclopenthixol (amongst others).

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

My contact details are:

However, if he or she complains of:

- Their body, arms or legs feeling unusually stiff - like a lead pipe
- Their heart-rate (pulse) being unusual
- Feeling faint or actually fainting or collapsing
- Feeling confused, disorientated or having slurred speech
- Feeling very hot and sweating a lot

Then he or she needs to be taken immediately to 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 your child is on. A blood test for creatinine kinase (CK) will need to be checked to ensure that he or she doesn't have this very rare reaction to the medicine. I must stress that this is uncommon. In patients who are receiving much larger doses than your child, it is estimated that only 1 in 500 patients may suffer from this side effect.

This is unlikely to affect your child but it is important that you are aware of it. As you may have read, many of my colleagues around the country, and internationally, have found antipsychotics a very helpful additional treatment for your child’s difficulties.

Other side effects are detailed in the accompanying patient information leaflet.

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

www.patient.co.uk/showdoc/40025090/

If you require this leaflet in another format ie easy read, large text, audio, Braille or a community language please contact the Pharmacy Team on 01243 623349 (Text Relay calls welcome).