

Pharmacy: 2465 - CPS1
 User: CPS1 - Jenny O'Donnell
 Last login: Thu, Jan 12, 2012 09:49

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BISCUIT, Bertie	Born 11-Mar-1977 (34y) Gender Male CHI No. 7777777777
Patient Details Last Modified On 12-Jan-2012 By CPS1	
Address	Phone and email

HRM Lithium Process : [Concordance](#) > [Interactions & precautions](#) > **Adverse reactions** > [Monitoring](#) > [Review](#)

Adverse reactions: side effects and toxicity

- Is the patient aware of the common side effects of lithium? Yes No
- Is the patient aware of the signs of lithium toxicity? Yes No
- Is the patient aware what might cause lithium toxicity and how to avoid this happening? Yes No
- Is the patient aware of what to do if they are suffering from these signs? Yes No
- Is the patient aware that adverse reactions should be reported? Yes No

Side effects may be short term, are usually dose dependent and include:

- Mild gastrointestinal disturbances (nausea and diarrhoea)
- Fine tremor
- Excessive thirst (polydipsia)
- Passing large volumes of urine (polyuria)
- Weight gain
- Oedema
- Skin problems (acne or worsening of psoriasis)
- Other effects to watch for are hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism and hypercalcaemia

Actions:

- **Check the patient's understanding of the side effects of lithium using the lithium information booklet as a prompt.**
- **Refer a patient with more severe side effects to their GP.**
- **Record any care issues in the patient's care plan and agree desired outcomes and actions.**

Common signs of toxicity include:

- Increasing gastrointestinal disturbances (anorexia, vomiting, diarrhoea)
- Muscle weakness and / or lack of co-ordination
- Muscle twitches
- Slurring of words
- Severe tremor
- Blurred vision
- Feeling unusually tired

Actions:

- **Check the patient's understanding of the signs of lithium toxicity using the lithium booklet.**
- **Advise the patient to avoid getting dehydrated by drinking plenty of water and not to change the level of salt in their diet. Advise them to see their GP to have their lithium level checked if they have sickness or diarrhoea for longer than 24 hours.**
- **Immediately refer a patient suffering from signs of toxicity to their GP, contacting their GP to alert them.**
- **Advise the patient to report any adverse drug reactions through the MHRA Yellow Card Reporting Scheme.**
- **Record any care issues in the patient's care plan and agree desired outcomes and actions.**

[Back - Interactions & precautions](#)

[Next - Monitoring](#)

[Save & Review](#)

[return to Lithium Review Page](#)