

## **PCSAO Reference Table for Psychotropic Medication Dosage Thresholds in Children**

This reference chart is to be used a guide to inform consumers about the most common drugs used by providers to treat mental health disorders in children and adolescents.

### **Important considerations:**

- These medications are **NOT** recommended for children under 6 years old.
- Doctors usually **start at the lowest dose, then increase the dose if needed.** Maximum dose may not be necessary for your child to feel better.
- It is important that children do not self-medicate. The medication is to be taken as **prescribed by the provider.** Always talk to the provider or pharmacist if there are questions regarding the prescription.

### **Consider talking with your provider and/or pharmacist when:**

- The dosage is greater those listed in tables A through F, and/or
- When the patient is prescribed:
  - Four or more psychotropics (Tables A through E)
  - Two or more antidepressants (Table C)
  - Two or more stimulants (Tables A, B)
  - Two or more mood stabilizers (Table E)
  - Two or more antipsychotics (Table D)

This reference chart lists name-brand and generic drug names. Some drugs are available in extended release formulations, allowing for once-a-day dosing, and are not listed individually.

**Table A.**

<b>Stimulants for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)</b>			
<b>Generic name</b>	<b>Brand name</b>	<b>Maximum dose (mg) Children 6-12 years</b>	<b>Maximum dose (mg) Adolescents 13-17 yrs</b>
Amphetamine and Dextroamphetamine	Adderall	40	40
Dexmethylphenidate	Focalin	20	20
Dextroamphetamine	Dexedrine	40	40
Lisdexamfetamine	Vyvanse	70	70
Methylphenidate	Concerta	54	90
Methylphenidate Patch	Daytrana TD	30	30
Methylphenidate CD	Metadata CD	60	60
Methylphenidate	Metadate	60	60
Methylphenidate	Methylin	60	60
Methylphenidate	Ritalin	60	60

**Table B.**

<b>Other (non-stimulant) ADHD treatments</b>			
<b>Generic name</b>	<b>Brand name</b>	<b>Maximum dose (mg) Children 6-12 years</b>	<b>Maximum dose (mg) Adolescents 13-17 yrs</b>
Atomoxetine	Strattera	≤ 100mg / day	≤ 100mg / day
Bupropion	Wellbutrin, Aplenzin, Forvivo	≤ 450mg	≤ 450mg
Clonidine	Catapres	0.4 mg	0.4 mg
Clonidine XR	Kapvay, Nexiclon	0.4 mg	0.4 mg
Guanfacine	Tenex	4 mg	4 mg
Guanfacine XR	Intuniv	4 mg	4 mg
Imipramine	Tofranil	≤ 300mg	≤ 300mg
Nortriptyline	Aventyl, Pamelor	≤ 150mg	≤ 150mg

**Table C.**

<b>Antidepressants</b>			
<b>Generic Name</b>	<b>Brand name</b>	<b>Maximum dose (mg) Children 6-12 years</b>	<b>Maximum dose (mg) Adolescents 13-17 years</b>
Citalopram	Celexa	40	40
Escitalopram	Lexapro	20	20
Fluoxetine	Prozac, Sarafem, Selfemra	60	60
Fluvoxamine	Luvox	200	300
Paroxetine	Paxil	Not approved	Not approved
Sertraline	Zoloft	200	200
Desvenlafaxine	Pristiq	Not enough information	Not enough information
Duloxetine	Cymbalta	Not enough information	Not enough information
Venlafaxine	Effexor	Not enough information	Not enough information

**Table D.**

<b>Antipsychotics</b>			
<b>Note: Some can be given as an injection at the provider's office</b>			
Chlorpromazine	Thorazine	75	800
Haloperidol	Haldol	4	6
Perphenazine	Trilafon	6	64
Aripiprazole	Abilify	15	30
Asenapine	Saphris	Not enough info.	Not enough info.
Clozapine	Clozaril, Fazaclo	300	600
Iloperidone	Fanapt	Not enough info.	Not enough info.
Olanzapine	Zyprexa	12.5	30
Paliperidone	Invega	Not enough info.	Not enough info.
Quetiapine	Seroquel	300	600
Risperidone	Risperdal	6	6
Ziprasidone	Geodon	Not enough info.	160
Pimozide	Orap	Weight-based	10

**Table E.**

<b>Mood and Behavior Disorder</b>			
<b>Generic Name</b>	<b>Brand name</b>	<b>Maximum dose (mg) Children 6-12 years</b>	<b>Maximum dose (mg) Adolescents 13-17 years</b>
*Carbamazepine	Carbitrol, Tegretol	800	1200
*Divalproex (sodium)	Depakote	Symptom Improvement	Symptom Improvement
*Lamotrigine	Lamictal	Symptom Improvement	Symptom Improvement
Lithium	Eskalith	blood level	blood level
Lithium	Lithobid	blood level	blood level

*\* Can also be used as an anticonvulsant/antiseizure medication.*