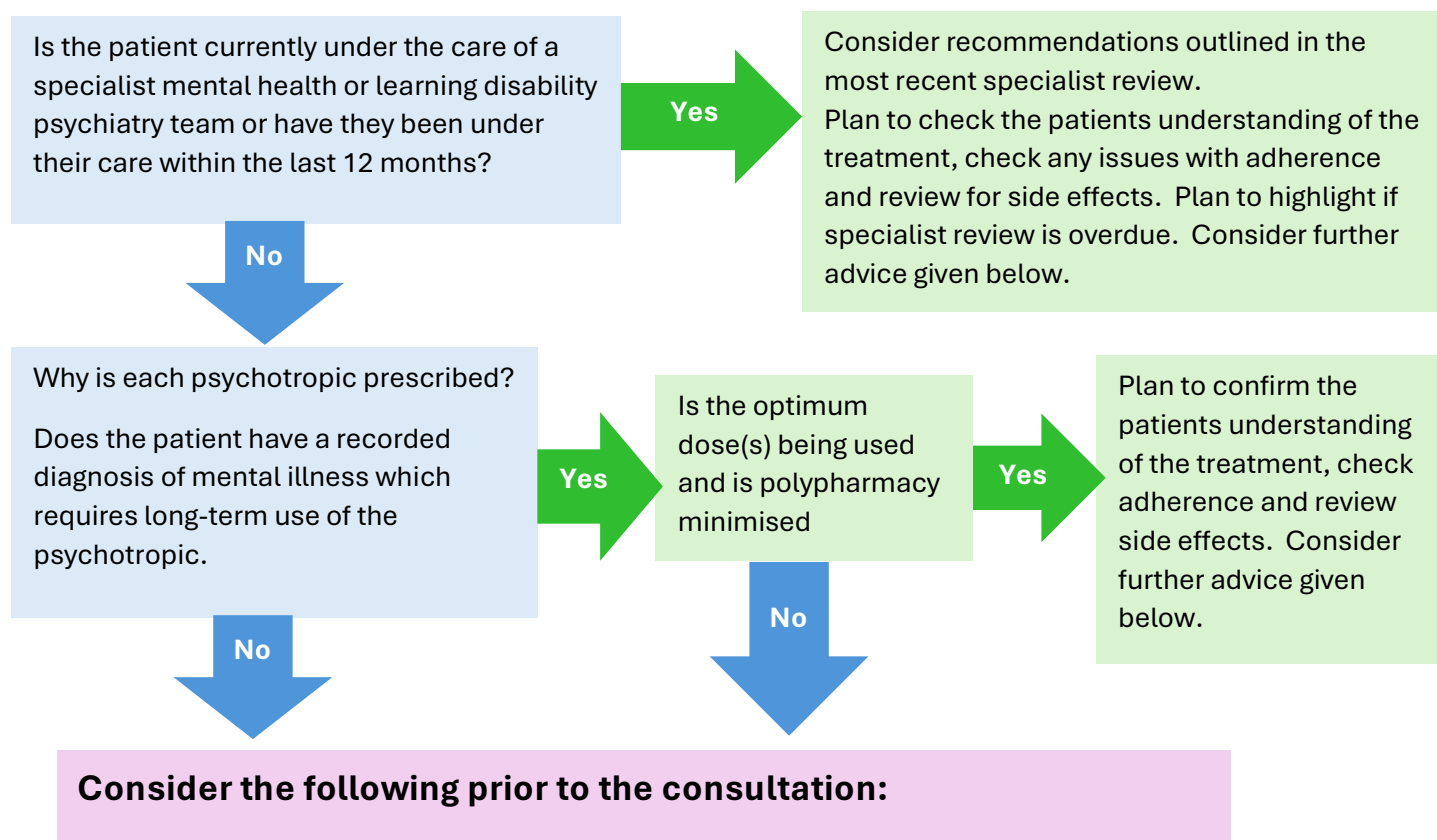


Questions to consider when preparing to review Patients with a Learning Disability who are taking psychotropic medication



□ **When was the medication started and by whom?**

If started in secondary care or in private care, review letters to determine the long-term plan for treatment. If necessary, contact the secondary care team or private care provider for further information.

□ **What are the target symptoms that the psychotropic is being used for?**

Consider information from specialist letters, patients, family and carers. Update patients record where appropriate. Plan to ask if target symptoms have improved or resolved.

□ **How does the patient take their medication?**

Check medication adherence. Is the medication being taken regularly? How frequently are they requesting the medication?

□ **Is the prescribing off-label?**

Check has this been documented and discussed with the patient? If not, plan to explain what this means and why the medicine is being used this way.

□ **What information do you have about previous history of treatment?**

Have there been attempts to reduce / remove medication in the past? If unknown, plan to ask in consultation and document.

□ **Have non-medication alternatives been offered or previously used?**

Questions to consider when preparing to review Patients with a Learning Disability who are taking psychotropic medication



This can include psychological therapies, or other interventions used. Plan to ask about non-medication alternative and where appropriate, other tools to understand and manage the patient's needs, such as behavioural support plans.

☐ **What support might you need to review this medication?**

Do you need advice from a specialist team about non-pharmacological approaches to manage behaviour, or how to withdraw psychotropics safely? If so, plan to contact the specialist team either before or after the consultation for advice.

☐ **What information might you need for deprescribing?**

Check resources for information on withdrawal symptoms, recommended tapering schedules, interactions, risks (e.g. risk of seizure, falls, relapse) and plan what monitoring and safety netting might be required.

☐ **What is the patient perspective about ongoing treatment?**

Plan to ask about this during the review along with the perspectives of family, carers and support staff about medication as this may influence prescribing choices and adherence.

☐ **Will the patient need support to understand the conversation?**

Consider what reasonable adjustments will be required. How will you communicate with the patient so that they understand you? Do they need someone to join them to help them to communicate.

☐ **Is there evidence that the patient might lack capacity?**

If so, make sure that you invite appropriate family, carers or support staff to the consultation so that you can have a best-interest discussion.

☐ **Has recommended physical health monitoring has been carried out?**

Use NICE guidance to see what health monitoring is required. Plan to complete any required monitoring and/or discuss recent results and/or take action if results out of range. Check the Annual Health Check documentation.