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GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES REGARDING MEDICATION

The use of medication inherently involves the acceptance of risk by the patient, as no medication is completely free of potential risks and adverse effects *including* over-the-counter medications and herbal or natural remedies.

Your pharmacist should provide you with a list of potential adverse effects regarding any medication prescribed.

If you do not receive this information, please ask your pharmacist or our staff.

If you believe that you are having an adverse effect of medication, contact us, or if unable to reach us promptly go to your closest emergency room.

Depending on your condition, the choice not to take medication also involves the risk that your condition might worsen and present a danger to yourself or others.

There is no guarantee that medication will be effective for your condition.

The physician will assist you in balancing the potential benefits of medication versus the potential risks of taking medication, however, **the choice to take medication is yours.**

If you are under a Board of Mental Health commitment and you disagree with medication prescribed and do not wish to assume the risks inherent with such medication, you should contact the Board of Mental Health to request a treatment plan hearing to propose an alternate treatment plan. We will assist you in doing so, if you request it. You may also request the assistance of a private attorney or the public defender's office to schedule such a hearing.

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of these instructions, and that I understand their meaning.

Patient Signature

Date

Witness