



# Creating an Evidence-based Algorithm for Neuroleptic Initiation for PGY-1 Residents to Increase Resident Confidence in Making Treatment Recommendations.

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## Learning Objectives

- 1- Describe how a psychotropic treatment algorithm was used to address the gap in psychopharmacology training at the University of Minnesota.
- 2-Explore the change in confidence in residents exposed to a treatment algorithm for psychosis
- 3- Consider applications in participant's home institution for a similar teaching tool

## Methods

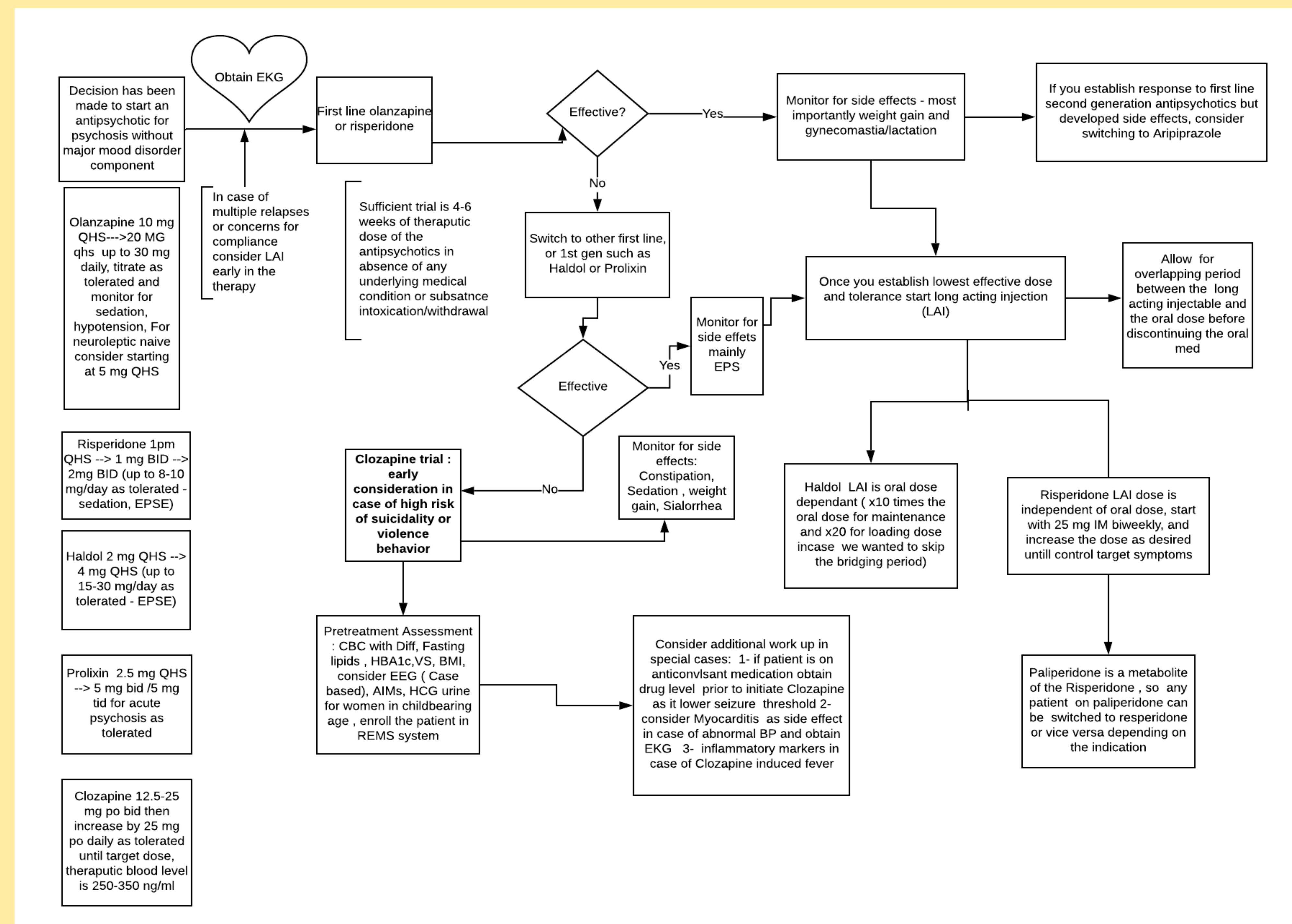
We here present the creation and dissemination of an evidence-based treatment algorithm for patients with acute psychosis, without a mood component, on the inpatient psychiatry units, for use by PGY-1 residents. This algorithm utilizes existing guidelines in the field regarding neuroleptic medication initiation and recommended doses. The tool was developed through an active dialogue between the current PGY-2 residents and three faculty members who are directly involved in resident teaching and clinical supervision on the inpatient units. It was designed as an educational tool to address a common concern raised by the residents regarding their psychopharmacology knowledge, and it's application in daily clinical practice.

Before use, a survey was sent to all residents in the program to assess the level of stress and confidence that residents have when they think about initiating psychotropic medications in this setting, and if possible, to identify the main barriers that contribute to stress and lack of confidence. A follow-up survey after a 3-month period was completed to assess the efficacy of this tool in alleviating the stress and discomfort among residents, and the educational value of adding this new innovative model to the established curriculum for PGY-1 and PGY-2 residents.

## Results

- Only 20% of residents felt well prepared to initiate psychotropic medications. 60% felt somewhat prepared and 20% felt they are not prepared at all.
- 100% of the residents that took the survey identified the lack of knowledge is the main reason for their discomfort with making treatment decisions.
- 70% of Junior residents who completed the follow up survey reported that having the algorithm improved their medical knowledge about Neuroleptic indications .

# Junior residents want more psychopharmacology knowledge in order to make treatment recommendations



## References

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