

Side Effect	Intervention or Education
Extra pyramidal symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess and document onset and location of symptoms</li> <li>Document functional impairment if any</li> <li>Administer medications if ordered</li> <li>Observe for response to treatment if any and document</li> </ul>
Anticholinergic	
Dry mouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess and document onset of symptoms</li> <li>Offer ice, water, hydration</li> <li>Provide candy or gum</li> <li>Attend to oral care</li> </ul>
Blurred vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement fall-risk protocols</li> <li>Remind client that side effects can resolve in a week or two</li> <li>Ask that they do not operate heavy machinery during this time</li> </ul>
Constipation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage hydration, high fiber diet, laxatives as prescribed, and increase in physical activity if not contraindicated</li> </ul>
Urinary hesitancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess and document symptoms; notify provider</li> <li>Monitor intake and output</li> </ul>
Sedation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess and document sedation</li> <li>Assess and document risk for falls</li> <li>Implement fall-risk protocol</li> <li>Communicate with provider about timing of medications</li> <li>Educate client not to operate heavy machinery while taking sedating medications</li> </ul>
Orthostatic hypotension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess and document blood pressure</li> <li>Communicate with provider assessment details</li> <li>Educate client about rising slowly, sitting before standing, using handrails</li> </ul>
Amenorrhea/gynecomastia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess and document findings; notify provider</li> <li>Educate client about mechanism of side effects</li> <li>Discuss with provider and client about possibility of alternate medication/decrease in medications</li> </ul>
Metabolic side effects (Metabolic syndrome)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess weight and BMI before and during regular intervals while taking medication</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assess fasting glucose and lipids with provider orders</li><li>• Communicate findings with providers</li><li>• Educate client on healthy diet and exercise</li></ul>
ECG changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assess and document ECG findings before initiation and during treatment</li><li>• Communicate findings with provider</li><li>• Educate client about notifying providers/team about palpitations, dizziness, weakness, shortness of breath</li></ul>
Agranulocytosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assess and document white blood cell count and absolute neutrophil count at initiation of treatment and during treatment (according to REMS protocol with Clozaril clients)</li><li>• Communicate findings with provider</li></ul>

**Table 15.4** Nursing Interventions for Antipsychotic Side Effects (Young et al., 2014)