

Choosing Medications for Acute Psychotic Agitation

Oral Agents	First line Haloperidol 5–10 mg with lorazepam 1–2 mg every four hours, up to four doses
	Second line Lorazepam 2 mg every two hours (max daily dose 10 mg) Olanzapine ODT 5–10 mg every four hours (max daily dose 30 mg) Risperidone ODT 2 mg with lorazepam 2 mg every four hours, up to four doses Haloperidol 5–10 mg with diphenhydramine 25–50 mg, or benztropine 1–2 mg, every four hours, up to four doses (with or without lorazepam 2 mg) Chlorpromazine 25–100 mg every four hours
	Third line Aripiprazole ODT 15 mg every two hours (max daily dose 30 mg) Quetiapine 100–300 mg every four hours (max daily dose 800 mg)
IM Agents	First line Haloperidol 5–10 mg with lorazepam 1–2 mg every four hours, up to four doses
	Second line Lorazepam 2 mg every two hours (max daily dose 10 mg) Olanzapine 5–10 mg every two hours (max daily dose 30 mg) Haloperidol 5–10 mg plus diphenhydramine or promethazine 25–50 mg, or benztropine 1–2 mg, every four hours, up to four doses (with or without lorazepam 2 mg) Chlorpromazine 25–100 mg every four hours
	Third line Droperidol 5–10 mg, one-time dose Ziprasidone 10–20 mg every 2–4 hours (maximum 40 mg daily)

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