

## Questions to Ask a Psychiatrist

When you visit a prescribing psychiatrist, you want to always make sure that you leave with a good understanding of what the child's diagnosis is and why they received it. Then, you want to take your time and ask questions so that you understand what medicine the doctor wants to prescribe, what the medicine should do and all details about dosing. Use this sheet of questions to make sure you don't leave confused or without crucial information in your quest for the child's best interests.

- What is the child's diagnosis?
- What lead you to decide on that diagnosis?
- What do you want to prescribe today?
- How much would the child take and how frequently?
- What is the medication intended to do and what is the best outcome we could see?
- What side effects should the caregivers be alert for?
- What adverse effects are worrisome? How soon should we contact you about these?
- How quickly should we see improvement?
- How often do we need to return for a follow-up with you? Can we schedule regular follow-ups after the first return visit?
- Is there anything else I should know about this medication?
- What tests or lab work should be done while my child is on this medication?
- Do you recommend any other treatment or therapy while my child is on this medication?

