

Take-Home Medication Shared Decision-Making Guide

Tips for assessing values and preferences

- Encourage your client to talk about what matters most to them
- Ask open-ended questions
- Listen actively to your patient
- Show empathy and interest
- Acknowledge the values and preferences that matter most to your patient

Take-home medication decisions offer an opportunity for a collaborative conversation with patients about their treatment goals.

The conversation can address concerns about any risks of take-home medication, as well as the therapeutic benefits for the patient. This conversation will help facilitate a therapeutic alliance that helps coordinate goals of care.

What are the benefits of take-home medication?

- Improved quality of life
- Better access to employment and/or education
- Reduced transportation barriers
- Improved family and/or social relationships
- Increased treatment engagement and patient satisfaction with care

What are the concerns associated with take-home medication?

- Possible overdose or other health-related issues
- The ability of patient to effectively manage medication
- Mental health-related issues
- Improper medication storage
- Risk of diversion

How can the treatment team better support the use of take-home medication?

- Providing family and/or social supports
- Provide clinical support to assist medication management
- Provide referrals to mental health treatment providers
- Offer Peer support services
- Provide security devices (e.g., lockboxes or tamper-resistant bottles)
- Offer periodic telehealth check-ins