

III. Duration of Treatment

Guideline 13: Frequency of Follow-Up Monitoring for Patients on Antipsychotics^{Question 37}

The table below summarizes the experts' recommendations concerning optimal and longest acceptable follow-up intervals when monitoring elderly patients who are receiving antipsychotics. Note that the intervals listed in the table are based on the median of the respondents' write-in answers (see Survey Question 37). The editors note that there was a high level of agreement between the psychiatrists and the geriatric internists/family physicians who completed this question.

Clinical situation	Optimal follow-up interval	Longest acceptable follow-up interval
After starting an antipsychotic	1 week	2 weeks
After a change in the dose of the antipsychotic	10 days	4 weeks
Once a patient has been symptomatically stable on the same dose of antipsychotic for 1 month, to monitor for continued therapeutic benefit and tolerability	2 months	3 months
Once a patient is in maintenance treatment (i.e., has been stable on the same antipsychotic medication for at least 6 months), to monitor for continued therapeutic benefit and tolerability	3 months	6 months