

MEDICATION EFFECTS

Medication is given to children to prevent or control health problems. It can also be given to cure an illness or to relieve symptoms.

Desired Effects	Desired effects are the favorable and expected responses to medication.
Undesired or Side Effects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mild side effect • adverse effect • mild allergic reaction • severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) 	Undesired or side effects are unwanted reactions to medication. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents must be notified of any side effects you observe. • Parents should be encouraged to notify the child’s health care provider with this information. • You must always follow the instructions on the child’s written medication consent form for any additional actions you must take.

Types of Undesired/Side effects	Action to take	What you might see in the child
A mild side effect is an unintended reaction to a medicine and is generally not a cause for concern.	Notify parent	Upset stomach; nausea; sleepiness; vomiting; diarrhea; drowsiness; trouble sleeping; irritability; nervousness; changes in appetite; headache
An adverse effect is an unexpected and serious side effect of medication that can be potentially harmful.	Notify parent immediately For a <u>severe</u> reaction: call 9-1-1 or the first responder in your area then follow up with the parent	Severe dizziness; chest pain; highly unusual behavior; seizures
A mild allergic reaction occurs when the immune system responds negatively to an allergen, such as medication and the reaction tends to be localized to one area or body function. It does not always occur the first time the child takes the medication.	Notify parent immediately Encourage parent to contact the child’s health care provider for instructions If the reaction becomes severe, contact 9-1-1 immediately	Itchy red skin; slight localized rash; itchy, watery eyes; sneezing; runny, stuffy, or itchy nose; an itchy feeling in the mouth or throat
A severe allergic reaction occurs when the immune system overreacts to an allergen, such as medication but the reaction affects <i>many</i> body functions and areas. These reactions occur quickly and are often life-threatening. A severe allergic reaction is called anaphylaxis .	Call 9-1-1 or first responder in your area immediately After calling 9-1-1, notify parent as soon as possible	Severe hives; swelling (especially of the lips and face); trouble breathing (either because of swelling in the throat or tightening of the airways); vomiting; diarrhea; severe cramping; racing heart; “passing out”