Exercise: Handling Effects from Medication

Case Study 1: Carmen is a three-year-old child in your program. She is being treated for an ear infection. Her doctor wrote a prescription for her to take a liquid antibiotic called amoxicillin, given by mouth for ten days. Since she needs the medication three times a day, you are giving her a dose every day at 2PM.

The instructions on Carmen’s Written Medication Consent Form tell you to look at the package insert for possible side effects. Carmen’s mother gave you the following drug information sheet, which she received from the pharmacy:

Using Handout 3.1 and the drug information sheet above, answer these questions:

1. On the Drug Information Sheet, circle the side effects that Carmen may get from the amoxicillin.

2. Carmen tells you she doesn’t feel good and her tummy hurts about an hour after you gave her the amoxicillin. What should you do?
**Case Study 2:** Kristopher is a four-year-old in your program. He is allergic to pollen, grass and trees. His parents gave you instructions from his doctor to give him Diphedryl® (diphenhydramine) to help treat the itchy eyes and runny nose he gets.

The instructions on Kristopher’s *Written Medication Consent Form* tell you to look at the package insert for possible side effects. Below is the medication package Kristopher’s mother gave you:

**Drug Facts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active Ingredient</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diphenhydramine HCl 12.5 mg</td>
<td>Antihistamine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Uses**
- temporarily relieves these symptoms due to hay fever or other upper respiratory allergies:
  - sneezing
  - itching of the nose or throat
  - runny nose
  - itchy, watery eyes
- temporarily relieves these symptoms due to the common cold:
  - sneezing
  - runny nose

**Warnings**
- Do not use with any other product containing diphenhydramine, even one used on skin.
- Ask a doctor before use if you have:
  - a breathing problem such as emphysema or chronic bronchitis
  - glaucoma
  - trouble urinating due to an enlarged prostate gland
  - a sodium-restricted diet
- Ask a doctor or pharmacist before use if you are taking sedatives or tranquilizers
- When using this product:
  - avoid alcoholic drinks
  - marked drowsiness may occur
  - excitability may occur, especially in children
  - alcohol, sedatives and tranquilizers may increase drowsiness
  - be careful when driving a motor vehicle or operating machinery
- If pregnant or breast-feeding, ask a health professional before use
- Keep out of reach of children. In case of overdose, get medical help or contact a Poison Control Center right away.

**Directions**
- if needed, take every 4-6 hours
- do not take more than 6 doses in 24 hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Dosage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>children under 6 years of age</td>
<td>ask a doctor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>children 6 to under 12 years of age</td>
<td>1 to 2 teaspoonfuls (12.5 mg to 25 mg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adults and children 12 years of age and over</td>
<td>2 to 4 teaspoonfuls (25 mg to 50 mg)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Using Handout 3.1 and the medication package above, answer these questions:

1. On the medication package, circle the undesired effects that Kristopher may get from the Diphedryl®.

2. About 30 minutes after giving Kristopher the medication, he is running around acting hyper and is having trouble calming down. What do you think is happening?

   ____________________________________________________________

   What should you do?

   ____________________________________________________________