

## COMMON SIDE EFFECTS OF PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

If a consumer is on certain medications such as an antidepressant or a psychotropic medication the following are possible side effects which can affect the consumer's health issues.

- Dry Mouth
- Nausea and / or vomiting
- Dysphagia
- Blurred Vision
- Constipation or Diarrhea
- Appetite, increase or decreased
- Orthostatic Hypotension
- Weight, gain or loss
- Drowsiness or increased agitation
- Urinary incontinence or retention
- Sleep disturbances
- Involuntary movements of the arms , legs and head
- Pill rolling , excessive chewing or drooling
- Stiffness
- Stooped posture

If the consumer is started on a new medication and any of these side effects or other changes are noted they should BE REPORTED to the provider who prescribed the medication.

Recognizing side effects in the populations of Developmental Disabilities sometimes goes unrecognized because the drug reactions are similar to the consumer's issues.

### AN EXAMPLE:

Slurred speech

Confusion                      could =                      lithium and phenytoin toxicity

Clumsiness