

Vignette

Mr. A is a 34-year old male with (schizophrenia,) hypertension, obesity, and chronic low back pain. His x-ray shows evidence of arthritis. He has been coming to your clinic for about 6 months, and this is his third visit. His current medications include Lisinopril 40mg daily, Naproxen 500mg twice a day, Fluoxetine 20 mg per day (and Risperidone 3 mg at bedtime). He comes to his appointment today 15 minutes late and states that he has already used up all of the Naproxen for the month in 25 days and would like to have his prescription filled early, or get “something else that works better.” He has tolerated Naproxen well. His height is 5’5” and he weighs 201 lbs. Three months ago he weighed 195 lbs. His blood pressure today is 150/98 and 3 months ago it was 148/92. Mr. A says that his back pain is “worse than ever” and that he is having a great deal of trouble sleeping. He looks more disheveled than usual (but reports no changes in his mental status). Mr. A grew up in Manchester, New Hampshire, and completed high school there. He has no history of substance abuse. He lives with his brother and has worked in food services at the VA for 3 years. His job performance has been above average. He attends church and church functions frequently, and enjoys reading magazines. Occasionally he goes fishing with his brother.