Lab Tests to Consider Documenting in Patients' Charts	
Test	**Rationale**
Complete blood count (CBC)[1]	Baseline in case future medications cause abnormalities.
Basic metabolic panel (BMP)[2]	Electrolytes that may be affected by the medication, and creatinine as a measure of renal function.
Liver function tests[3]	Liver disease may affect metabolism of medications, dose adjustment is often needed in cases of hepatic impairment, and many psychotropic medications can cause liver injury.
Thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH)	Abnormal thyroid function may partly explain the psychiatric symptoms present, some medications can affect thyroid function, and presence of thyroid dysfunction may impair response to some medications.
Fasting lipid profile[4]	Persons with mental health problems tend to have worse self-care than others and increased risk of metabolic syndrome. Some psychiatric medications may lead to increased lipids.
Urine drug screen[5]	In case of any doubt of substance abuse, it is probably better to check.
Pregnancy test	Many medications are teratogenic.

[1] The CBC usually includes WBC (white blood count), white blood differential (counts neutrophils, lymphocytes, monocytes, eosinophils, and basophils), RBC (red blood cell count), hemoglobin, hematocrit, and platelet count.
[2] Also known as the "chem 7," this panel includes glucose, calcium, sodium, potassium, CO2 (bicarbonate), chloride, BUN (blood urea nitrogen), and creatinine.
[3] Also known as the hepatic function panel, liver function tests include ALT (alanine aminotransferase), AST (aspartate transaminase), ALP (alkaline phosphatase), bilirubin, albumin, total protein, GGT (gamma-glutamyl transferase), LDH (lactate dehydrogenase), and PT (prothrombin time and international normalized ratio).
[4] Includes total cholesterol, HDL-C (high-density lipoprotein cholesterol), LDL-C (low-density lipoprotein cholesterol), and triglycerides.
[5] Urine drug screens vary, but will often test for marijuana, cocaine, opiates, PCP, amphetamines, benzodiazepines, and barbiturates.

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