1

ASSESS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Is the person improving?

YES — **NO**

» Continue with treatment plan.

» Decrease frequency of follow-up once symptoms have subsided.

» Follow-up as needed.

SKIP to **STEP 2**

Is the person taking medication?

YES — **NO**

» **Ensure that person has been on a typical effective dose for minimum of 4-6 weeks.**

» Maintain a high frequency of contact until symptoms start to respond to treatment.

» Involve the person and carers in treatment plan changes and decisions.

» **START ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICATIONS** (Go to **Table 1**).

» Maintain a high frequency of contact until symptoms start to respond to treatment.

» Involve the person and carers in treatment plan changes and decisions.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON FREQUENCY OF CONTACT

» Initial follow-up should be as frequent as possible, even daily, until acute symptoms respond to treatment.

» Regular follow-up is needed. Once symptoms respond, monthly to quarterly follow-up is recommended (based on clinical need and feasibility factors such as staff availability, distance from clinic, etc.)

2

ROUTINELY MONITOR TREATMENT

» Review psychosocial interventions.

» If on medication, review **adherence, side effects and dosing** (**Table 4**). Check weight, blood pressure, and blood glucose.

» If the person starts to use any other medications with potential drug-drug interactions, consider reviewing the medication dose.

» Ask regarding the onset of symptoms, prior episodes, and details of any previous or current treatment.

3

DISCONTINUE MEDICATIONS

Person with first episode, relapse, or worsening of psychosis symptoms:	Person with psychotic symptoms persisting more than 3 months:
» Consider discontinuation of medications **12 MONTHS after symptoms have resolved.**	» Consider discontinuation of medications **if person is in FULL REMISSION of symptoms for several years.**

» Discuss risks of relapse against long-term medication side-effects with person and family.

» If possible, consult a specialist.

» Gradually and slowly reduce the medication dose. When medications are withdrawn, individuals and family members need to be educated to detect early symptoms of relapse. Close clinical monitoring is recommended.