

# CARING FOR A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER?

A DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR CAREGIVERS

## HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR TALKING WITH THEIR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

As a caregiver, one of the most important things you can do is help the person you care for get the treatment they need. Not sure where to start? Consider preparing a list of questions to discuss with their healthcare provider. While this is not a complete list of questions, here are some suggestions.

### STARTING THE CONVERSATION

You may wish to begin by talking about how your friend or family member is doing, including:

- Their treatment history and any recent changes in their health
- Any other medications they may be taking
- How their current schizophrenia treatment plan is working
- If they are experiencing any side effects from their medication
- How they are managing their medication routine

### HERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MAY WANT TO ASK ABOUT PERSERIS

- How can PERSERIS™ (risperidone) help to manage their schizophrenia?
- What are the possible side effects of PERSERIS?
- Who should not take PERSERIS?
- What if they miss their monthly PERSERIS appointment?

If you have any other questions or concerns, be sure to discuss them with their healthcare provider.

### INDICATION

PERSERIS™ (risperidone) for extended-release injectable suspension, for subcutaneous use, is a prescription medicine used to treat schizophrenia in adults.

### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

**What is the most important information I should know about PERSERIS?**

**Drugs like PERSERIS that are used to treat schizophrenia can cause serious side effects, including an increased risk of death in elderly people who are confused, have memory loss, and have lost touch with reality (dementia-related psychosis). PERSERIS is not approved to treat dementia-related psychosis and it has not been studied in elderly people with dementia-related psychosis.**

Please see additional Important Safety Information throughout this guide and visit [PERSERIS.com](https://www.perseris.com) to see the full Prescribing Information including **BOXED WARNING**, or talk to your healthcare provider.



once-monthly  
**PERSERIS™**  
(risperidone)  
for extended-release  
injectable suspension  
**90 mg · 120 mg**

## TALKING ABOUT PERSERIS WITH THE PERSON YOU CARE FOR

While some people are excited about trying a different treatment, others may have trouble adjusting to change. So try to be reassuring and explain how PERSERIS™ (risperidone) may help:

- **PERSERIS may reduce their schizophrenia symptoms.** It's been shown to reduce the symptoms of schizophrenia in adults.
- **There's no need to take a daily risperidone pill for schizophrenia.** PERSERIS is a once-monthly extended-release treatment. This means the medicine is gradually released in their body throughout the month.
- **PERSERIS is an injection given by a healthcare provider.** If the person you care for is new to risperidone, their healthcare provider will give them a small oral dose to test for side effects prior to treatment. Some patients, depending on their current risperidone dose, may not be candidates for PERSERIS.
- **PERSERIS may help simplify their schizophrenia medication routine.** Since they receive their injection from their healthcare provider just once every month, PERSERIS may help them stay on schedule with their treatment.

## NOTES

Use the space below to write down any additional questions or concerns you may have.

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## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (CONT.)

**Do not receive PERSERIS if you** are allergic to risperidone, paliperidone, or any of its components. Allergic reactions, including swelling of the face, mouth, lips, and tongue, have been reported in some patients treated with risperidone.

**PERSERIS may cause serious side effects, including:**

- **Stroke in elderly people (cerebrovascular problems) that can lead to death.**
- **Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS). NMS is a rare but very serious problem that can lead to death. Seek medical attention right away** if you have any of these symptoms: high fever, severe muscle stiffness, confusion, sweating, irregular heartbeat, fast heart rate, or changes in your blood pressure.

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## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (CONT.)

PERSERIS may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Uncontrolled facial or body movements (tardive dyskinesia)** that may not go away, even if you stop receiving PERSERIS. Tardive dyskinesia may also start after you stop receiving PERSERIS.
- **Problems with your metabolism** that may include high blood sugar (hyperglycemia), diabetes mellitus, changes in the fat levels in your blood (dyslipidemia), and weight gain. Extremely high blood sugar can lead to coma or death. If you have diabetes or are at risk for diabetes (e.g., obesity, family history of diabetes), your healthcare provider should check your blood sugar before you start and during treatment with PERSERIS. Call your healthcare provider if you have symptoms of high blood sugar including: feeling very thirsty, hungry, sick to your stomach, weak or tired, or confused; needing to urinate more than usual; or your breath smells fruity.
- **High level of prolactin in your blood.** PERSERIS may cause a rise in the blood levels of a hormone called prolactin that may cause side effects including missed menstrual periods, decreased fertility in women, leakage of milk from the breasts, development of breasts in men, or problems with erection.
- **Decreased blood pressure (orthostatic hypotension).** You may feel lightheaded or faint when you rise too quickly from a sitting or lying position.
- **Falls.** Antipsychotic medicines like PERSERIS may cause drowsiness or dizziness when you are standing, which could increase your risk for falls and related injuries.
- **Low white blood cell count.**
- **Problems thinking clearly and moving your body. Do not** drive, operate machinery, or do other dangerous activities until you know how PERSERIS affects you.
- **Seizures (convulsions).**
- **Difficulty swallowing that can cause food or liquid to get into your lungs.**
- **Prolonged or painful erection lasting more than 4 hours.** Call your healthcare provider or go to your nearest emergency room right away if you have an erection that lasts more than 4 hours.
- **Problems with control of your body temperature (too high or too low). Avoid getting overheated or dehydrated.**

The most common side effects of PERSERIS include weight gain; constipation; drowsiness; pain in arms, legs, back, or muscles; restlessness; feeling excessive worry or nervousness; and pain or redness at the injection site. These are not all the possible side effects of PERSERIS. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

**Do not** drink alcohol during treatment with PERSERIS.

**Before receiving PERSERIS, tell your healthcare provider** about all your medical conditions, including if you:

- have had Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome.
- have or have had uncontrolled movements of your tongue, face, mouth, or jaw (tardive dyskinesia).
- have diabetes or have a family history of diabetes.
- have had dizziness or fainting or are being treated for high blood pressure.
- have had a low white blood cell count.
- have or have had seizures or epilepsy.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant during treatment with PERSERIS. It is not known if PERSERIS will harm your unborn baby. Use of PERSERIS during the third trimester of pregnancy may cause side effects in the newborn infant, including agitation, abnormal muscle tone, tremor, drowsiness, difficulty feeding, and difficulty breathing. Seek medical attention if you notice these signs. If you become pregnant during treatment with PERSERIS, talk to your healthcare provider about registering with the National Pregnancy Registry for Atypical Antipsychotics, or call 1-866-961-2388 or visit <http://womensmentalhealth.org/clinical-and-research-programs/pregnancyregistry/>.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. If you are receiving PERSERIS and are breastfeeding, monitor your infant for sleepiness, inadequate weight gain, jitteriness, tremors, and abnormal muscle movements. Seek medical care if you notice these signs.
- have or have had kidney or liver problems.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take or plan to take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. PERSERIS and other medicines may affect each other.

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## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (CONT.)

To report pregnancy or side effects associated with taking PERSERIS, please call 1-877-782-6966. You are encouraged to report side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

For more information about PERSERIS and the full Prescribing Information including BOXED WARNING, visit [PERSERIS.com](http://PERSERIS.com) or talk to your healthcare provider.




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PERSERIS is manufactured for Indivior Inc., North Chesterfield, VA 23235 by AMRI, Burlington, MA 01803.

This material is intended solely for residents of the United States.

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