



# NEW VISION CARE MINISTRY

**Policy Description:** NVCM.012 The Role of Medicine

**Revised Date:** 05/28/2021

**Applies To:** NVBC Biblical Counselors

**PURPOSE:** This policy defines our stance on giving a counselee advice in starting, stopping, or adjusting prescribed psychotropic drugs.

**Biblical counselors should never encourage a counselee to reduce or discontinue a medication without the permission of their doctor. We encourage counselees to speak only to a medical professional for advice regarding use of prescription medications.**

We believe the Bible teaches that God created man in a way that intricately connects physical and spiritual issues. Mental and emotional disorders, though popularly seen as being treatable by drugs, have a spiritual component that ought not to be neglected as at least part of the solution. Some disorders are clearly physiologically testable and treatable. Many other disorders and syndromes have no clear clinical proof; further, the mechanisms, effectiveness, and long-term side effects of drug therapy is unclear, even to the medical profession.

However, taking these concerns into account, we believe the decision to use psychotropic drugs is between the patient and their doctor. The biblical counselor may routinely recommend a medical exam to help determine if there is a physiological cause. New Vision Church and New Vision Counseling Ministry refers counselees to medical professionals for advice regarding any use or management of prescription medications.

A biblical counselor does not judge a person based on their use of drugs and a counselee should not judge the counselor based on their concern about the use of drugs. Our primary interest is to address the spiritual concerns of responsibility for behavior and attitudes in relation to God and His Word. Application of God's Word can accomplish changes in ways that medication cannot. It should be natural for a sincere Christian to seek the help and counsel of other believers for mature, biblical insight and spiritual growth in their emotions, attitudes, and behaviors. Our passion is to help people live to the glory of God.

Rarely, if ever, will taking medication interfere with your ability to counsel. Our goal in counseling those who are taking medication is the same as your goal for counseling anyone. It is to help them come to a place where they want to glorify God with their life (2 Cor 5:9).

At times a counselee will ask the counselor directly if they can stop taking their medication. Counselors may seek to learn their reasons for wanting to stop as it may give you further insight in providing spiritual counsel. However even if you or they have become convinced they have replaced the use of medication with the practice of applying biblical principles, we still encourage them to go back to the doctor who started them on medication before they make any decision to start, stop, or adjust any prescribed medication.



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