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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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Why do mothers with schizophrenia need specialised treatment?

Mothers who have been diagnosed with schizophrenia face challenges in accessing and maintaining treatment programs, particularly when inpatient care is required. Mothers with dependent children may be less likely to seek treatments for their illness due to a fear of losing custody of their children, or due to difficulties in finding alternative care should hospitalisation be required. They may also find it difficult to properly adhere to any treatment programs due to the demands of childcare. Mothers have been shown to be particularly at risk of relapse in the months immediately following child birth and specialised programs could help to support them and their babies during this time.

What is the evidence for treatments for mothers with schizophrenia?

Low quality evidence is unclear as to the benefits of specialised programs tailored to mothers with schizophrenia who have dependent children. Review authors conclude that such interventions are lacking and that flexible treatment approaches that incorporate support networks including childcare and family involvement are highly recommended.

For more information see the technical table



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NeuRA (Neuroscience Research Australia) is one of the largest independent medical and clinical research institutes in Australia and an international leader in neurological research.

Diseases of the brain and nervous system pose the greatest health, economic and social burden of any disease group because they are chronic, debilitating and have no known cures.

Medical research is the cornerstone of efforts to advance the health and wellbeing of families and the community. Our dedicated scientists are focussed on transforming their research into significant and practical benefits for all patients.

While we hope you find this information useful, it is always important to discuss any questions about schizophrenia or its treatment with your doctor or other health care provider.

HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

We are able to make significant advances due to the generosity of countless people. Your donation allows us to continue to work towards transforming lives. For information on how you can support our research, phone **1300 888 019** or make a secure donation at neura.edu.au/donate/schizophrenia.

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