

**Mental Health Nursing
Class Preparation
Antidepressant Therapy**

Directions: Please fill in the blanks and answer the questions in the spaces provided.

1. What is the mechanism by which antidepressant medications achieve their desired effect (regardless of the different physiological processes by which this action is accomplished)?

_____ by increasing the amount of Norepinephrine and serotonin _____

2. For what must a nurse be on the alert with a client who is receiving antidepressant medication?

_____ antidepressants can take 2-8 weeks to work so if someone has suicidal actions/ ideations will still need to be watched until therapy is effective _____

3. When should a nurse expect a client to begin showing signs of symptomatic relief after the initiation of antidepressant therapy?

_____ when they begin to initiate in self-care needs and regain interest in life activities 2-8 weeks after therapy _____

4. Give an example of a tricyclic antidepressant: _____ desipramine _____

Give an example of an MAOI: _____ isocarboxazid _____

Give an example of an SSRI: _____ fluoxetine _____

5. Describe some common side effects and nursing implications for tricyclic antidepressants.

_____ sedation, orthostatic hypotension, produces anticholinergic effects _____

6. _____ hypertensive crisis is the most potentially life-threatening adverse effect of MAOIs. Symptoms for which the nurse must be on the alert include: _____ severe headache, stiff-neck, tachycardia, nausea and vomiting _____

7. What must be done to prevent these symptoms from occurring?

_____ avoid food with tyramine _____

