

**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)?

Antidepressant medications achieve their desired affect by slowing or inhibiting the reuptake of serotonin

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

Nurse should be alert for the client's risk of suicide

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

10-14 days and up to 4-8 weeks

- 4. Give an example of a tricyclic antidepressant: Clomipramine (Anafranil)

Give an example of an MAOI: Phenelzine (Nardil)

Give an example of an SSRI: fluoxetine (Prozac)

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

SE Anticholinergic effects: Dry mouth, orthostatic hypotension, sedation, and weight gain

Nursing Implications: Provide teachings, monitor for overdose, withdrawal, and toxicity.

6. Hypertensive crisis: is the most potentially life-threatening adverse effect of MAOIs. Symptoms for which the nurse must be on the alert include Irritability, anxiety, flushing, sweating, high fever, and seizures.

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

Take medication at a therapeutic dose and as prescribed. Monitor BP and follow up with provider as well as be aware of possible signs of impending hypertensive crisis.