

**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)?

medications that treat depression by enhancing mood (serotonin reuptake inhibition/increase or block reuptake of norepinephrine & serotonin/prevent breakdown of norepinephrine, serotonin, dopamine)

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

suicidal behavior

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

10-14 days

4. Give an example of a tricyclic antidepressant: Nortriptyline

Give an example of an MAOI: Isocarboxazid

Give an example of an SSRI: Venlafaxine

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

Side effects: produce anticholinergic effects, orthostatic hypotension, sedation, weight gain

Nursing implications: lethal in overdose, contraindicated with pregnancy/MAOI/alcohol use/benzodiazepines/oral contraceptives, abrupt withdrawal, toxic effects: CV

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, fever, high fever, seizures, coma, death

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

Restrict intake of tyramines, avoid pseudoephedrine