

**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)?

\_\_\_\_\_ alleviates their mood \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ suicidal ideation \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ 4-8 weeks \_\_\_\_\_

4. Give an example of a tricyclic antidepressant: Amitriptyline \_\_\_\_\_

Give an example of an MAOI: \_\_\_\_\_ Isocarboxazid \_\_\_\_\_

Give an example of an SSRI: \_\_\_\_\_ Sertraline \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Produce anticholinergic effects, Orthostatic hypotension, Sedation, Weight gain, Lethal in overdose, Contraindicated: Pregnancy, with MAOIs, alcohol use, benzodiazepines, oral contraceptives, Abrupt withdrawal, Nausea, dysrhythmias, nightmares, cold sweats, Toxic Effects: Cardiovascular (dysrhythmias, tachycardia, MI) \_\_\_\_\_

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, fever, sweating, anxiety, flushing \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_avoid tyramine \_\_\_\_\_

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