

**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 drugs inhibit the reuptake of monoamines into the presynaptic neuron

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

Antidepressants might contribute to suicidal behavior, and it provides a black box warning

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

4-8 weeks for full affect, but within a week or two you should see symptomatic relief

4. Give an example of a tricyclic antidepressant: Doxepin

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.

Produce anticholinergic effects, orthostatic hypotension, sedation, and weight gain

6. Severe HTN is the most potentially life-threatening adverse effect of MAOIs. Symptoms for which the nurse must be on the alert include: Orthostatic hypotension, weight gain, insomnia, changes in cardiac rhythm, sexual dysfunction, and hypomanic and manic behaviors

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

Must restrict their intake of tyramine