

**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)?

Treat depression by enhancing mood

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

Suicidal ideations

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

Enhanced mood

4. Give an example of a tricyclic antidepressant: amitriptyline

Give an example of an MAOI: selegiline

Give an example of an SSRI: fluoxetine

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

Orthostatic hypotension, falls, sedation, wt gain

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

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

Avoiding tyramines