

**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)?

___ **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? **1-2 weeks, but full therapy in 4-8 weeks.**

4. Give an example of a tricyclic antidepressant: **Nortriptyline**

Give an example of an MAOI: **Isocarboxazid**

Give an example of an SSRI: **Duloxetine**

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

___ **Common side effects are- orthostatic hypotension, sedation, weight gain and anticholinergic effects. Some nursing implications would be to monitor toxic effects (dysrhythmias, tachycardia, MI) and to teach about not abruptly stopping the medication. Educate not to take with MAOI's, while abusing alcohol, and during pregnancy.**

6. ___ **Hypertension** crisis is the most potentially life-threatening adverse effect of MAOIs. Symptoms for which the nurse must be on the alert include: **_monitor for irritability, anxiety, sweating, and fever.**

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

Restriction of tyramine intake.