

**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)?

**Antidepressants 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?

**Nurse's must be on alert with suicidal ideations or worsening depression with clients receiving antidepressant medication**

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

**2-4 weeks**

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

Give an example of an MAOI: **Phenelzine**

Give an example of an SSRI: **Fluoxetine**

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

**Side effects for tricyclic antidepressants include anticholinergic effects (tachycardia, constipation, hypotension), weight gain, and sedation. As nurses, we want to monitor their BP for orthostatic hypotension, and also HR for tachycardia.**

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, flushing, sweating, fever, seizures**

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

**A dietary restriction of tyramine must be implemented and avoid taking MAOI med with other medications due to its high interaction with many medications**