

**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 work to treat depression by enhancing mood, there are five main groups of medications \_\_\_\_\_

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

The nurse must be alert for suicidal ideations or behaviors when taking antidepressants \_\_\_\_\_

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

After a week or two, the client's mood should increase \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

anticholinergic effects, orthostatic hypotension, weight gain, sedation, can be lethal in overdose so they are only prescribed one week at a time \_\_\_\_\_

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, fever, sweating and then high fever, seizures, coma, or death \_\_\_\_\_

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

Do not eat foods or products with tyramine to avoid increased levels of tyramine \_\_\_\_\_