

 **FORMULARY OVERVIEW – PSYCHIATRIC MEDICATIONS** 

Drug Class	Exemplars	Nursing Priority Points
<b>SSRIs</b> <i>(antidepressants)</i>	Fluoxetine Escitalopram Paroxetine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Suicide risk early</b></li> <li>• First-line</li> <li>• Takes weeks to work</li> <li>• Watch for serotonin syndrome.</li> </ul>
<b>SNRIs</b>	Venlafaxine Duloxetine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to SSRIs</li> <li>• Can increase blood pressure</li> <li>• Also used for chronic pain</li> </ul>
<b>TCA's</b>	Amitriptyline Nortriptyline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lethal in overdose</b></li> <li>• Anticholinergic</li> <li>• Sedation</li> </ul>
<b>MAOIs</b>	Phenelzine Tranlycypromine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Avoid tyramine foods</b> - risk of hypertensive crisis</li> <li>• Many drug interactions</li> </ul>
<b>Atypical Antidepressants</b>	Bupropion Mirtazapine Trazodone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bupropion: lowers seizure threshold</li> <li>• Mirtazapine: causes weight gain &amp; sedation</li> <li>• Trazodone: sedating, risk of priapism (rare but serious)</li> </ul>
<b>1st Gen Antipsychotics</b>	Haloperidol Chlorpromazine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High risk of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>EPS</b> (tremor, rigidity)</li> <li>○ <b>NMS</b> (fever, muscle rigidity, confusion)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Monitor for early motor changes and fever</li> </ul>
<b>2nd Gen Antipsychotics</b>	Risperidone Paliperidone Olanzapine Quetiapine Clozapine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metabolic syndrome</li> <li>• QT prolongation – may require ECG</li> <li>• Clozapine: monitor WBCs – <b>agranulocytosis</b></li> </ul>
<b>Mood Stabilizer</b>	Lithium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Narrow therapeutic range</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Toxicity = tremor, confusion, GI upset</li> <li>○ Monitor fluids, sodium.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Anticonvulsants (for mood)</b>	Valproic acid Carbamazepine Lamotrigine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blood disorders</li> <li>• Valproic acid: Liver toxicity, thrombocytopenia</li> <li>• Lamotrigine: Risk of Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS) – especially early in therapy or with dose changes</li> </ul>
<b>Benzodiazepines</b>	Lorazepam Alprazolam Diazepam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not combine with alcohol or opioids</b></li> <li>• Sedating</li> <li>• Risk of dependence</li> </ul>
<b>Non-Benzodiazepine Anxiolytics</b>	Buspirone Hydroxyzine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buspirone: long-term use, non-sedating</li> <li>• Hydroxyzine: PRN, fast-acting antihistamine</li> </ul>