

 **FORMULARY OVERVIEW – PSYCHIATRIC MEDICATIONS** 

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