

Commonly Used Antidepressant Medications

Generic Name	Starting Dose (mg/day) ^a	Usual Dose (mg/day)
SSRIs^b		
Citalopram	20	20 – 60 ^c
Escitalopram	10	10 – 20 ^c
Fluoxetine	20	20 – 60 ^c
Fluvoxamine	50	50 – 300 ^c
Paroxetine	20	20 – 60 ^c
Sertraline	50	50 – 200 ^c
<i>Serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake Inhibitors</i>		
Venlafaxine ^b	37.5	75 – 225
Venlafaxine, extended release	37.5	75 – 225
<i>Dopamine-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors</i>		
Bupropion ^b	150	300
Bupropion, sustained release	150	300
<i>Norepinephrine-serotonin modulator</i>		
Mirtazapine	15	15 – 45
Tricyclics and Tetracyclics		
<i>Tertiary amine tricyclics</i>		
Amitriptyline	25 – 50	100 – 300
Clomipramine	25	100 – 250
Doxepin	25 – 50	100 – 300
Imipramine	25 – 50	100 – 300
Trimipramine	25 – 50	100 – 300
<i>Secondary amine tricyclics</i>		
Desipramine ^b	25 – 50	100 – 300
Nortriptyline ^b	25	50 – 200
Protriptyline	10	15 – 60
<i>Tetracyclics</i>		
Amoxapine	50	100 – 400
Maprotiline	50	100 – 225
<i>Serotonin modulators</i>		
Nefazodone (black box warning)	50	150 – 300
Trazodone (for sleep primarily)	50	75 – 300
MAIOs		
<i>Irreversible, nonselective</i>		
Phenelzine	15	15 – 90
Tranylcypromine	10	30 – 60
<i>Reversible MAOI-A</i>		
Moclobemide	150	300 – 600
<i>Selective noradrenaline reuptake inhibitor</i>		
Reboxetine	-- ^d	-- ^d

^a Lower starting doses are recommended for elderly patients and for patients with panic disorder, significant anxiety or hepatic disease, and general comorbidity.

^b These medications are likely to be optimal medications in terms of the patient's acceptance of side effects, safety, and quantity and quality of clinical trial data.

^c Dose varies with diagnosis

^d FDA approval is anticipated. When available, consult manufacturer's package insert or the PDR for recommendations.

Source – Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement Major Depression in Adults, September 2003, May 2004, May 2006, May 2008