

**Mercy Managed Behavioral Health  
Adult Depression Medication Guideline**

Category	Drug	Dosage [Adult]	Comments
SSRI's	<b>Celexa®</b> (citalopram) All tabs scored	Initial: 20mg QD Usual: 20 - 60mg QD	Possible side effects: diarrhea, dizziness, nausea, sexual. Discontinuation Syndrome.
	<b>Paxil®</b> (paroxetine) 20mg tabs scored	Initial: 20mg QD Usual: 20 - 60mg QD	Possible side effects: diarrhea, dizziness, nausea, sexual. Discontinuation Syndrome.
	<b>Paxil CR®</b>	Initial: 25mg QD Usual: 25 - 75mg QD	Possible side effects: diarrhea, dizziness, nausea, sexual. Discontinuation Syndrome.
	<b>Zoloft®</b> (sertraline) All tabs scored	Initial: 50mg QD Usual: 100 - 200mg QD	Possible side effects: diarrhea, dizziness, nausea, sexual. Discontinuation Syndrome.
	<b>Prozac®</b> (fluoxetine)	Initial: 20mg QAM Usual: 20 - 80mg QD	Possible side effects: diarrhea, dizziness, nausea, sexual. Discontinuation Syndrome (less of one).
	<b>Prozac Weekly®</b>	Usual: 90 mg/week	Reserved for patients stable on 20mg/day.
	<b>Lexapro®</b> (escitalopram)	Initial: 5 - 10mg Usual: 10 - 20mg	Possible side effects: diarrhea, dizziness, nausea, sexual. Discontinuation Syndrome (less of one).
	<b>Pexeva®</b> (paroxetine)	Initial: 20mg QD Usual: 20 - 60mg QD	Possible side effects: diarrhea, dizziness, nausea, sexual. Discontinuation Syndrome.
	<b>Vibryd®</b> (vilazodone hydrochloride)	Initial: 10 mg/day for 7 days Usual: 40 mg QD	Possible side effects: diarrhea, dizziness, nausea, sexual. Discontinuation Syndrome.
SNRI's	<b>Cymbalta®</b> (duloxetine)	Initial: 30mg/day Usual: 60mg/day	Nausea, Monitor BP, Possible sexual side effects.
	<b>Effexor®</b> (venlafaxine)	Initial: 37.5mg BID Usual: 75 - 375mg/day	Monitor BP. Withdrawal Syndrome due to short half life. 10% have ↑ BP at > 300mg/day. Sexual side effects.
	<b>Effexor XR®</b>	Initial: 75mg QD Usual: 150 - 225mg/day	Same as Effexor. Take with food.
	<b>Pristiq®</b> (desvenlafaxine)	Initial: 50mg Usual: 50 - 100mg	Less discontinuation and possibly less sexual side effects.
NaSa	<b>Remeron®</b> (mirtazapine)	Initial: 15mg QHS Usual: 15 - 45mg QHS	Titrate at intervals > 1 wk. Decreased sedation if > 15mg/day. Weight gain possible.
SARI's	<b>Serzone®</b> (nefazodone)	Initial: 100mg BID Usual: 300 - 600mg/day	<b>Reports of: Liver failure in 1/250,000 to 1/300,000 patients / year.</b> Caution with cardiac meds. Anxiolytic effect. Titrate at intervals > 1 wk.
	<b>Desyrel®</b> (trazodone)	Initial: 50mg TID Usual: 300 - 600mg/day	Take with food. Titrate at intervals > 3 days. Caution with cardiac meds (calcium channel blockers). ↑ Priapism.
NDRI's	<b>Wellbutrin®</b> (bupropion)	Initial: 100mg BID Usual: 100 - 450mg/day	Titrate at intervals > 3 days. Divide doses by 6 hours to manage risk of seizure. Avoid with Zyban.
	<b>Wellbutrin SR®</b>	Initial: 150mg QAM Usual: 150 - 200 BID	Divide doses by 8 hours to manage risk of seizure. Avoid with Zyban.
	<b>Wellbutrin XL®</b>	Initial: 150mg/day Usual: 300- 450mg/day	Avoid with Zyban.
	<b>Aplenzin®</b> (bupropion hydrobromide)	Initial: 174-348mg/day Usual: 348-522 mg/day	Avoid with Zyban.
TCA's	<b>Norpramin®</b> (desipramine)	Initial: 25mg QD Usual: 100 - 300mg/day	Lethal in OD due to cardiac toxicity. Weight gain possible. Sexual side effects.
	<b>Pamelor®</b> (nortriptyline)	Initial: 25mg QD Usual: 50 - 150mg/day	Same as above.
	<b>Vivactil®</b> (protriptyline)	Initial: 5mg TID Usual: 15 - 60mg/day	Same as above.
	<b>Elavil®</b> (amitriptyline)	Initial: 25 - 100mg QHS Usual: 50 - 300mg/day	Lethal in OD (2000mg) due to cardiac toxicity. Weight gain. Monitor BP/P during initial therapy.
	<b>Ascendin®</b> (Amoxipine)	Initial: 25mg QHS Usual: 150 - 250mg/day	Same as above. <b>Risk of T-D.</b>
	<b>Ludiomil®</b> (maprotiline)	Initial: 25mg QHS Usual: 150 - 250mg/day	Same as above.
	<b>Sinequan®</b> (doxepin)	Initial: 25mg QHS Usual: 75 - 300mg/day	Same as above.
	<b>Tofranil®</b> (imipramine)	Initial: 25mg QHS Usual: 50 - 300mg/day	Same as above.
	<b>Tofranil PM®</b>	Initial: 25mg QHS Usual: 75 - 300mg/day	Same as above.
	<b>Surmontil®</b> (trimipramine)	Initial: 25mg QHS Usual: 75 - 300mg/day	Same as above.

Color changed re: generic status

Added

  = Generic Available

SSRIs or Bupropion SR are generally preferred first-line pharmacotherapy treatments.

\* Reduce dose in renal and hepatic dysfunction.

\*\* Consult the Product Insert for a complete list of drug interactions and other warnings.

\*\*\* MAOI's are available - Consider referral to psychiatry to assess.

\*\*\*\* Abilify is approved for MDD's as an adjunct medication in conjunction with another antidepressant.