

Medications Prescribed for Major Depressive Disorder

Class of Medication	Generic Name (Trade Name)	Side Effects
Norepinephrine/Dopamine Reuptake Inhibitor	Bupropion (Wellbutrin)	Serious: seizures, confusion, hallucinations, unusual thoughts, fever, rash Less serious: headache, dizziness, shaking, insomnia, nausea, vomiting, dry mouth, appetite changes, mild rash, increased sweating Contraindications: seizure disorder, eating disorder, substance abuse, certain medical problems
SSRIs	Citalopram (Celexa) Escitalopram (Lexapro) Fluoxetine (Prozac) Sertraline (Zoloft)	Serious: serotonin syndrome, mania, seizures, hyponatremia (low sodium), arrhythmias, abnormal bleeding Less serious: nausea, dry mouth, sleep and appetite changes, tremor, diarrhea, flu syndrome, decreased libido, sweating Additional serious side effects: vasculitis, glaucoma, growth suppression, hypotension
SNRIs	Desvenlafaxine (Pristiq) Venlafaxine (Effexor)	Serious: hypertension (high blood pressure), arrhythmias, seizures, abnormal bleeding, pancreatitis, growth suppression, skin reactions Less serious: nausea, headache, sleep and appetite changes, bowel changes, blurred vision, high cholesterol, tremor, abnormal dreams, paresthesia, tachycardia (increased heart rate)

Note. SSRIs = selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors; SNRIs = serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors. Only fluoxetine (8–18 y) and escitalopram (12–17 y) have Food and Drug Administration approval for treatment of major depressive disorder. All have a black box warning to monitor for suicidality and serious neuropsychiatric events.

Medication Prescribed for Anxiety Disorders

Class of Medication	Generic Name (Trade Name)	Side Effects
Alpha-2 Adrenergic Agonists	Clonidine (Catapres, Kapvay) Guanfacine (Tenex, Intuniv)	Serious: syncope (fainting), bradycardia (slowed heart rate), rebound hypertension (high blood pressure) Less serious: dry mouth, drowsiness, fatigue, dizziness, headache, impotence
Benzodiazepines	Lorazepam (Ativan) Diazepam (Valium) Clonazepam (Klonopin)	Serious: dependency/abuse, respiratory depression if combined with other CNS depressants (i.e., alcohol), withdrawal, agitation Less serious: sedation, dizziness, hypotension (low blood pressure), amnesia, disinhibition, irritability
SSRIs	Citalopram (Celexa) Escitalopram (Lexapro) Fluoxetine (Prozac) Fluvoxamine (Luvox) Sertraline (Zoloft)	Serious: serotonin syndrome; mania; seizures; hypo-natremia (low sodium); arrhythmias; abnormal bleeding Less serious: GI upset, headaches, nausea, dry mouth, sleep and appetite changes, tremor, diarrhea, flu syndrome, decreased libido, sweating
Other Antianxiety Agents	Buspirone (Buspar)	Serious: serotonin syndrome; movement disorders; depression Less serious: dizziness, drowsiness, nausea, headache, fatigue, decreased concentration, numbness, weakness, GI upset

Note. CNS = central nervous system; SSRIs = selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors. Fluoxetine has Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for obsessive–compulsive disorder (OCD) in ages 7–17 y; sertraline has FDA approval for OCD in ages 6–17 y; clomipramine and fluvoxamine have FDA approval for OCD in >6 y

Medications for Pediatric Bipolar Disorder

Class of Medication	Generic Name (Trade Name)	Side Effects
Atypical Antipsychotics	Aripiprazole (Abilify) Olanzapine (Zyprexa) Quetiapine (Seroquel) Risperidone (Risperdal) Ziprasidone (Geodon)	Serious: metabolic disorders (diabetes), movement disorders, tardive dyskinesia, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, seizures, arrhythmias, stroke Less serious: increased appetite, fatigue, nausea, dizziness, headache, akathisia, tremor, photosensitivity, increased prolactin
Lithium Salt	Lithium (Lithobid)	Serious: lithium poisoning (vomiting, confusion, lack of coordination), seizures, kidney problems, hypothyroidism Less serious: tremor, increased thirst and urination, weight gain, acne, drowsiness, cognitive dulling

Mood Stabilizers/ Anticonvulsants	Lamotrigine (Lamictal)	Serious: Stevens–Johnson syndrome (life-threatening rash), multiple organ failure, blood disorders, liver failure, pancreatitis, worsened depression Less serious: nausea, dizziness, tiredness, headache, GI upset, tremor, photosensitivity
	Divalproex sodium (Depakote)	Serious: liver failure, platelet depression, other blood disorders, pancreatitis, Stevens–Johnson, psychosis, encephalopathy, confusion, polycystic ovary syndrome Less serious: weight gain, nausea, tremor, GI upset, dizziness, hair loss, depression, blurred vision, photosensitivity

Note. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for schizophrenia for ages 13–17 y: aripiprazole, olanzapine, quetiapine, risperidone. FDA approval for bipolar manic/mixed for ages 10–17 y: aripiprazole, olanzapine, quetiapine, risperidone. FDA approval for bipolar mania ages ≥12 y: lithium. FDA approval for autistic disorder irritability for ages 5–17 y: aripiprazole, risperidone

Common Types of Psychotropic Medication

Category	Trade Name (Generic Name)	Desired Therapeutic Outcome	Common Behavioral Side Effects
Anticonvulsants	Epakene or Depakote (valproate or valproic acid) Klonopin (clonazepam) Tegretol (carbamazepine)	Primarily used to treat epileptic disorders, however sometimes prescribed to manage behavior problems with aggression, anger and severe mood swings	Agitation or mania Hallucinations Impulsive behavior Increased aggression Irritability Motor/vocal tics Sleepiness
Antidepressants	<u>Atypical Antidepressants</u> Desyrel (trazodone) Effexor (venlafaxine) Serzone (nefazodone) Wellbutrin (bupropion) <u>Tricyclic Antidepressants</u> Anafranil (clomipramine) Pamelor or Aventyl (nortriptyline) Tofranil (imipramine)	Used to treat depression, anxiety, panic, obsessions, compulsions, bed-wetting, night terrors, sleep walking, and symptoms of ADHD.	Confusion Hallucinations Increased activity (e.g., rapid speech) Irritability Motor tics Severe change in behavior
Adrenergic (Antihypertensives)	Catapres (clonidine hydrochloride) Inderal (propranolol hydrochloride)	Primarily used to treat symptoms of Tourette’s, chronic tics, and ADHD. Occasionally prescribed	Confusion Depression Sleepiness Worsening of tics

	Tenex (guafacine hydrochloride)	for aggression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety and bipolar disorders.	
Antipsychotics	Ativan (lorazepam) Buspar (buspirone) Klonopin (clonazepam) Restoril (temazepam) Valium (diazepam) Xanax (alprazolam)	Sometimes referred to as anti-anxiety medications and are typically prescribed for short-term treatment of anxiety and sleep problems.	Aggression Excitement Irritability Memory loss Sleepiness Uncontrolled behavior
Mood Stabilizers	Eskalith CR / Lithonate (lithium)	Prescribed for bipolar (manic depressive) disorder, certain types of depression, severe mood swings and explosive aggression	Confusion Sleepiness
Selective Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs) **	Strattera (atomoxetine) Edronax (reboxetine)	SNRIs are an older form of antidepressant that are more commonly prescribed today for dealing with motivation and concentration issues associated with ADHD.	Anxiety Agitation Apathy Dizziness/nausea
Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) **	Celexa (citalopram) Luvox (fluvoxamine) Prozac (fluoxetine) Zoloft (sertraline)	Used to treat depression, obsessive-compulsive and panic disorders, eating disorders, phobias, attention deficit disorders, and chronic anxiety disorders such as obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)	Restlessness Sleepiness
Stimulants	Adderall (Mixture of amphetamines) Daytrana or Ritalin (Methylphenidate) Desoxyn Gradumet (Methamphetamine) Dexedrine (Detroamphetamine)	Prescribed primarily for ADHD to improve attention span, ability to complete tasks, and follow directions, while decreasing distractibility, hyperactivity, and impulsivity.	Auditory/visual/tactile hallucinations Irritability Motor/vocal tics Nervous habits Rebound Sadness

Note 1. Table adopted from Ryan, J. B., Reid, R., Gallagher, K., & Ellis, C. (2008). Prevalence rates of psychotropic medications for students placed in residential care. *Behavioral Disorders*, 33(2), 99-107.