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Medication Guide

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Antidepressant Medicines, Depression and other Serious

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Mental Illnesses, and Suicidal Thoughts or Actions

1104 Read the Medication Guide that comes with your or your family member's antidepressant medicine.

1105 This Medication Guide is only about the risk of suicidal thoughts and actions with antidepressant

1106 medicines. **Talk to your, or your family member's, healthcare provider about:**1107

- all risks and benefits of treatment with antidepressant medicines

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- all treatment choices for depression or other serious mental illness

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What is the most important information I should know about antidepressant medicines, depression and other serious mental illnesses, and suicidal thoughts or actions?

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1112 1. **Antidepressant medicines may increase suicidal thoughts or actions in some children,**
1113 **teenagers, and young adults within the first few months of treatment.**1114 2. **Depression and other serious mental illnesses are the most important causes of suicidal**1115 **thoughts and actions. Some people may have a particularly high risk of having suicidal**1116 **thoughts or actions.** These include people who have (or have a family history of) bipolar illness

1117 (also called manic-depressive illness) or suicidal thoughts or actions.

1118 3. **How can I watch for and try to prevent suicidal thoughts and actions in myself or a family**
1119 **member?**1120

- Pay close attention to any changes, especially sudden changes, in mood,
1121 behaviors, thoughts, or feelings. This is very important when an
1122 antidepressant medicine is started or when the dose is changed.

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- Call the healthcare provider right away to report new or sudden changes in
1124 mood, behavior, thoughts, or feelings.

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- Keep all follow-up visits with the healthcare provider as scheduled. Call the
1126 healthcare provider between visits as needed, especially if you have concerns
1127 about symptoms.

1128 Call a healthcare provider right away if you or your family member has any of the following

1129 symptoms, especially if they are new, worse, or worry you:

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- thoughts about suicide or dying

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- attempts to commit suicide

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- new or worse depression

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- new or worse anxiety

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- feeling very agitated or restless

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- panic attacks

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- trouble sleeping (insomnia)

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- new or worse irritability

- 1138 • acting aggressive, being angry, or violent
- 1139 • acting on dangerous impulses
- 1140 • an extreme increase in activity and talking (mania)
- 1141 • other unusual changes in behavior or mood

1142 **What else do I need to know about antidepressant medicines?**

- 1143 • **Never stop an antidepressant medicine without first talking to a healthcare**
1144 **provider.** Stopping an antidepressant medicine suddenly can cause other
1145 symptoms.
- 1146 • **Antidepressants are medicines used to treat depression and other illnesses.** It is
1147 important to discuss all the risks of treating depression and also the risks of not
1148 treating it. Patients and their families or other caregivers should discuss all
1149 treatment choices with the healthcare provider, not just the use of antidepressants.
- 1150 • **Antidepressant medicines have other side effects.** Talk to the healthcare provider
1151 about the side effects of the medicine prescribed for you or your family member.
- 1152 • **Antidepressant medicines can interact with other medicines.** Know all of the
1153 medicines that you or your family member takes. Keep a list of all medicines to
1154 show the healthcare provider. Do not start new medicines without first checking
1155 with your healthcare provider.
- 1156 • **Not all antidepressant medicines prescribed for children are FDA approved**
1157 **for use in children.** Talk to your child's healthcare provider for more information.

1158 *This Medication Guide has been approved by the US Food and Drug*
1159 *Administration for all antidepressants.*

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