

1475 **Antidepressant Medicines, Depression and other Serious Mental**  
 1476 **Illnesses, and Suicidal Thoughts or Actions**

1477 Read the Medication Guide that comes with your or your family member's antidepressant  
 1478 medicine. This Medication Guide is only about the risk of suicidal thoughts and actions with  
 1479 antidepressant medicines. **Talk to your, or your family member's, healthcare provider**  
 1480 **about:**

- 1481 • all risks and benefits of treatment with antidepressant medicines
- 1482 • all treatment choices for depression or other serious mental illness

1483 **What is the most important information I should know about antidepressant**  
 1484 **medicines, depression and other serious mental illnesses, and suicidal thoughts**  
 1485 **or actions?**

1486 **1. Antidepressant medicines may increase suicidal thoughts or actions in some children,**  
 1487 **teenagers, and young adults within the first few months of treatment.**

1488 **2. Depression and other serious mental illnesses are the most important causes of**  
 1489 **suicidal thoughts and actions. Some people may have a particularly high risk of**  
 1490 **having suicidal thoughts or actions.** These include people who have (or have a family  
 1491 history of) bipolar illness (also called manic-depressive illness) or suicidal thoughts or  
 1492 actions.

1493 **3. How can I watch for and try to prevent suicidal thoughts and actions in myself or a**  
 1494 **family member?**

- 1495 • Pay close attention to any changes, especially sudden changes, in mood, behaviors,  
 1496 thoughts, or feelings. This is very important when an antidepressant medicine is  
 1497 started or when the dose is changed.
- 1498 • Call the healthcare provider right away to report new or sudden changes in mood,  
 1499 behavior, thoughts, or feelings.
- 1500 • Keep all follow-up visits with the healthcare provider as scheduled. Call the  
 1501 healthcare provider between visits as needed, especially if you have concerns about  
 1502 symptoms.

1503 **Call a healthcare provider right away if you or your family member has any of the**  
 1504 **following symptoms, especially if they are new, worse, or worry you:**

- 1505 • thoughts about suicide or dying
- 1506 • attempts to commit suicide
- 1507 • new or worse depression
- 1508 • new or worse anxiety
- 1509 • feeling very agitated or restless
- 1510 • panic attacks
- 1511 • trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- 1512 • new or worse irritability

- 1513 • acting aggressive, being angry, or violent
- 1514 • acting on dangerous impulses
- 1515 • an extreme increase in activity and talking (mania)
- 1516 • other unusual changes in behavior or mood

### What else do I need to know about antidepressant medicines?

- 1518 • **Never stop an antidepressant medicine without first talking to a healthcare provider.**  
1519 Stopping an antidepressant medicine suddenly can cause other symptoms.
- 1520 • **Antidepressants are medicines used to treat depression and other illnesses.** It is  
1521 important to discuss all the risks of treating depression and also the risks of not treating it.  
1522 Patients and their families or other caregivers should discuss all treatment choices with the  
1523 healthcare provider, not just the use of antidepressants.
- 1524 • **Antidepressant medicines have other side effects.** Talk to the healthcare provider about  
1525 the side effects of the medicine prescribed for you or your family member.
- 1526 • **Antidepressant medicines can interact with other medicines.** Know all of the medicines  
1527 that you or your family member takes. Keep a list of all medicines to show the healthcare  
1528 provider. Do not start new medicines without first checking with your healthcare provider.
- 1529 • **Not all antidepressant medicines prescribed for children are FDA approved for use in**  
1530 **children.** Talk to your child's healthcare provider for more information.

1531 *This Medication Guide has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for*  
1532 *all antidepressants.*

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