

Date: December 14, 2006

Subject: DRC Recommendations to DUCC and DHS

To: DHHS, DUCC, Dean's Office

From: Howell R. Foster, PharmD.

At its 012/14/06 meeting, the Drug Review Committee considered the potential toxicity and therapeutic role of second generation antidepressants.

Second generation antidepressants

Bupropion (Wellbutrin)

Citalopram (Celexa)

Duloxetine (Cymbalta)

Escitalopram (Lexapro)

Fluoxetine (Prozac)

Fluvoxamine (Luvox)

Nefazodone (generic)

Paroxetine (Paxil)

Mirtazapine (Remeron)

Sertraline (Zoloft)

Venlafaxine (Effexor)

Indications for the initial use of antidepressants under consideration in adults and geriatric patients unless otherwise specified

Major depressive disorder

Major depressive disorder in children

Dysthymic disorder

Generalized anxiety disorder

Obsessive compulsive disorders

Panic disorder

Post-traumatic stress disorder

Social anxiety disorder

Premenstrual dysphoric disorder and late luteal phase dysphoric disorder

1. Based on failure rates with initial therapy, the DRC recommends at least three of the second generation agents should be available on the PDL.

2. None of the agents should be stricken for safety reasons, but the DUCC should consider the following:

A. Patients with hepatic dysfunction should have the opportunity to receive an agent other than nefazodone.

- B. Patients with a seizure disorder should have the opportunity to receive an agent other than bupropion.
 - C. Venlafaxine may produce seizures in overdose.
 - D. Patients with hypertension should have the opportunity to receive an agent other than venlafaxine.
3. Based on the evidence fluoxetine should be available to pediatric patients 18 years of age or less.
4. In regards to concomitant medications, co morbidities, and pregnancy, the committee wishes to inform the DUCC of the following:
- A. Bupropion appears to cause the least sexual dysfunction.
 - B. Fluoxetine has a very long half-life and it is a potent inhibitor of CYP2D6 and should be used with caution in patients taking other medications metabolized by this pathway.
 - C. Paroxetine is an inhibitor of CYP2D6 and should be used with caution in patients taking other medications metabolized by this pathway.
 - D. Paroxetine is a category D in pregnancy and a fetal echocardiogram should be performed when exposed to the drug in the first trimester.
 - E. Weight gain appears to occur more frequently with mirtazapine and paroxetine and may be desirable in emaciated patients.
 - F. Bupropion appears to lead to weight loss and may be desirable in obese patients.

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