

Name:

### Informed Consent for Antidepressant

#### Specific medications:

Bupropion (Wellbutrin)	Fluvoxamine (Luvox)
Citalopram (Celexa)	Paroxetine (Paxil)
Duloxetine (Cymbalta)	Sertraline (Zoloft)
Escitalopram (Lexapro)	Trazodone (Desyrel)
Fluoxetine (Prozac)	Venlafaxine (Effexor)

**Risks and side effects** - Side effects include, but are not limited to:

- Sedation, fatigue, drowsiness
- Upset stomach, heartburn, diarrhea or constipation
- Problems with sleep: restlessness, nightmares, awakenings
- Sexual problems
- Increased risk of suicidal thoughts and suicide
- Change in appetite and weight
- Muscle pain or weakness
- Increased risk of seizures
- Increased risk of bleeding, including bleeding from the GI tract
- Irregular heartbeat, palpitations
- May kindle manic or psychotic symptoms in rare instances

Medication side effects can rarely be medically serious or even life threatening. Go to the nearest emergency room if you have any serious symptom.

**Expected onset of action:** These antidepressants take at least 2-3 weeks to begin to treat symptoms of depression and it may be 6-8 weeks before you feel their full effect.

**Use in pregnancy:** Babies whose mothers took certain antidepressants during pregnancy have been found to have an increased risk of respiratory problems. There is also some evidence to suggest that SSRI antidepressants, especially Paxil, may be associated with birth defects. It is safest to avoid these medications during pregnancy and to use birth control while taking these medications. Let your doctor know if you may be or wish to become pregnant.

**Interactions with other drugs and food:** Street drugs and alcohol should be avoided while taking these medications. Some of these medications can interact with tranquilizing medications such as olanzapine (Zyprexa), clozapine (Clozaril), or thioridazine (Mellaril).

**Discontinuation effects:** If these medications are stopped suddenly, you may experience anxiety, depressed mood or mood swings, restlessness, insomnia, or stomach cramps and other GI symptoms. This can be avoided by tapering the medication slowly.

I accept the risks and unknowns of taking antidepressants and wish to have my doctor prescribe them for me.

Signature:

Date:

Witness: