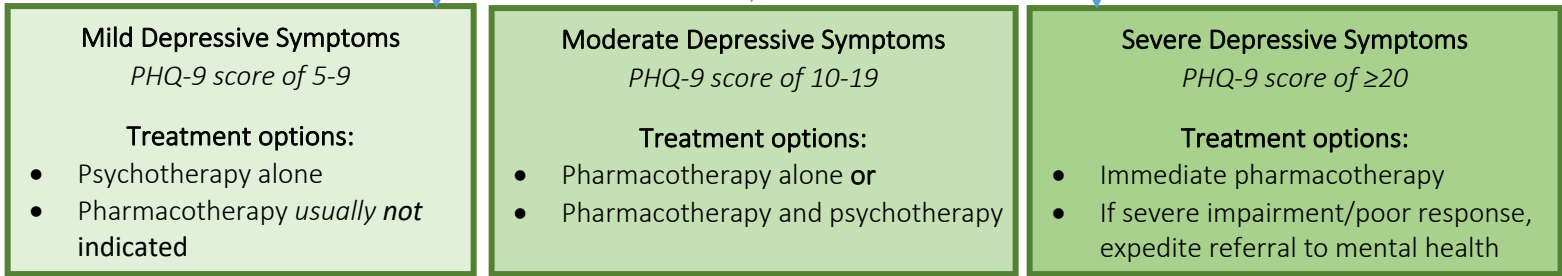




# Pharmacy Pearls

## Antidepressant Management Algorithm for PCPs for Adults

### Step 1: Assess Depression Severity



### Step 2: Initiate an Antidepressant

**SSRIs are considered first-line treatment.**

- Choice may be based on presenting symptoms, safety and tolerability, history of response, patient preference, cost, potential drug interactions, and comorbidities
- Sertraline, citalopram and escitalopram have fewer drug-drug interactions than fluoxetine and paroxetine
- Citalopram has a higher risk of QTc prolongation than other SSRIs
- Paroxetine has a higher incidence of adverse effects compared to other SSRIs, avoid in pregnancy
- All SSRIs are available generically and many are on \$4 drug lists at pharmacies
- Fluoxetine capsules are **much** less expensive than tablets
- Set expectations with patients about time to effect as well as side effects and that they diminish over time

Refer to medication management tables

### Step 3: Follow-up Assessment at 4 week intervals

**Assess response (PHQ-9), side effects, adherence, and suicide risk at each visit. Treatment goal is Remission (PHQ-9 of <5).**

