1-114 Antidepressants for how long

TIPS Question:

How do you know when to stop an antidepressant when you don't know the degree of depression or the history of the depression of the resident and the resident cannot give any history?

Response:

You have highlighted one of the greatest problems and challenges in our health care system today. When an individual moves from one sector to the other, we are often faced with "bodies without backgrounds."

I would do everything I can to get the old records and collateral history from family to try to clarify the reason for the initiation of the antidepressant, the severity of the illness that the antidepressant was used for, and the response. Also, recurrence of any depressive symptoms would be important.

I would also suggest a Cornell for baseline as well as SIG E CAPS to get a picture and clear idea of the degree of depression presenting at this time.

In general if he or she has had two or more episodes of depression, the rule of thumb at this point in time is to leave them on the antidepressant as there is up to 60-90% or relapse of major mood disorders for those who have had two or more episodes.

Please note: *TIPS information should be used similar to the way you would use information from a text book! TIPS is not intended to serve as an individual consultation service! P.I.E.C.E.S. participants should use this information in context and always work closely with the family physician involved in the care of the resident or client and with other Partners In Care to find solutions to individual resident/client issues.*