1-115 Antidepressants and response

TIPS Question:

When a resident is started on a new psychotropic medication, how long should we wait before the desired effect should be seen? How often should the medication be reviewed?

Response:

This is the fundamental process in terms of best practices as they relate to psychotropics. The desired effect and how often they should be review is dependent on:

1. reason for use
2. the natural course of response of the problem to psychotropics
3. the desired outcomes
4. the timing and occurrence of side effects

For example, for a major mood disorder say you are using an antidepressant SSRI.

- You know your side effects are HANDS.
- You know your response may take 6-8 weeks
- You know the sequence of staged improvements are effects on sleep, appetite, and energy followed usually later by subjective well-being

Similarly, the 4 questions above can be used for other medication reviews. I would review the psychotropic template concentrating on monitoring response and review the Preceptor slides available in the resource centre at www.pieces.cabhru.com

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.*