

# Medications Approved by the FDA for Bipolar Disorder

| Medication                              | Brand Name | Common side effects   | May interact with   |
|---|------------|---|---|
| Aripiprazole                            | Abilify®   | Insomnia<br>Nausea<br>Restlessness<br>Tiredness   | Antidepressants such as Prozac or Paxil<br>Mood stabilizers such as Equetro or Tegretol   |
| Asenapine                               | Saphris®   | Sleepiness<br>Dizziness<br>Strange sense of taste<br>Numbing of the mouth<br>Nausea<br>Increased appetite<br>Feeling tired<br>Weight gain               | Antihypertensive medications<br>Antidepressants<br>Anxiety medications  |
| Carbamazepine extended release capsules | Equetro™   | Dizziness<br>Drowsiness<br>Nausea<br>Dry mouth<br>Blurred vision<br>Decreased white blood cell count<br><b>Can rarely cause severe skin rashes</b>      | Birth control pills (can make them ineffective)<br>Mood stabilizers such as Lithium, Lamictal, or Depakote<br>Anticonvulsant medications<br>Anxiety medications<br>Macrolide antibiotics<br>Tricyclic antidepressants<br>Cancer medications<br>HIV/AIDS medications<br>Cytotoxic or immunosuppressive Medications<br>Grapefruit juice |
| Cariprazine                             | Vraylar®   | Muscle stiffness<br>Indigestion<br>Vomiting<br>Sleepiness<br>Restlessness   | Antidepressants<br>Pain medications<br>Anxiety medications<br>Mood stabilizers such as Lithium<br>Anticonvulsants such as Lamictal<br>Antipsychotics such as Latuda or Seroquel   |
| Divalproex Sodium                       | Depakote®  | Nausea<br>Shaking<br>Weight gain<br>Decrease in blood platelets<br>Rash<br>Pancreatitis<br>Liver dysfunction (rare)<br>Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (rare) | Aspirin or other blood thinning medications<br>Mood stabilizers such as Equetro, Tegretol, or Lamictal<br>Barbiturates<br>Cyclosporine (Neoral or Sandimmune)   |
| Fluoxetine + Olanzapine                 | Symbyax®   | Dizziness<br>Drowsiness<br>Dehydration<br>Headache<br>Nausea<br>Sweating  | MAOI antidepressants<br>Antipsychotics such as Mellaril<br>Pain medications<br>Sleep medications<br>Blood pressure or heart medications<br>Anticonvulsants<br>Herbal supplements<br>Alcohol   |
| Lamotrigine                             | Lamictal®  | Sleepiness<br>Blurred vision<br>Sensitivity to sunlight<br>Headache<br>Nausea<br>Can rarely cause severe skin rashes.                                   | Mood stabilizers such as Depakote, Equetro, or Tegretol<br>Antibiotics such as Bactrim, Septra, or Proloprim<br>Anticonvulsants<br>Birth control pills<br>Barbiturates  |

## Medications Approved by the FDA for Bipolar Disorder *(continued)*

| Medication          | Brand Name  | Common side effects  | May interact with  |
|---------------------|---|--|--|
| Lithium carbonate   | Lithionate®<br>Lithotabs®<br>Lithobid®<br>Eskalith® | Shaking<br>Nausea<br>Increased thirst/Dry mouth<br>Frequent urination<br>Diarrhea<br>Fatigue/Dull feeling<br>Lowered thyroid activity<br>Weight gain<br>Kidney trouble<br><b>Avoid sweating too much or getting dehydrated, which can make your blood lithium levels toxic.</b>      | Birth control pills<br>Antidepressants<br>Pain medications<br>Anxiety medications<br>Caffeine<br>Mood stabilizers such as Equetro or Tegretol<br>Anticonvulsants such as Dilantin<br>Antibacterial medications such as Flagyl<br>Iodine<br>Heart, blood pressure, or diuretic medications  |
| Olanzapine          | Zyprexa®  | Drowsiness<br>Dry mouth<br>Shaking<br>Increased appetite<br>Weight gain  | Anxiety medications<br>Sleep medications   |
| Quetiapine fumarate | Seroquel®   | Weight gain<br>Dry mouth<br>Constipation<br>Stiness/Restlessness<br>Shaking<br>Sedation<br>Low blood pressure  | Barbiturates<br>Antibiotic or antifungal medications<br>Anxiety medications<br>Stomach medications such as Tagamet<br>Steroid medications<br>Alcohol   |
| Risperidone         | Risperdal®  | Weight gain<br>Sedation<br>Increased saliva<br>Stiness/Restlessness<br>Shaking<br>Low blood pressure   | Blood pressure or heart medications<br>Antipsychotics<br>Anxiety medications<br>Parkinson medications  |
| Ziprasidone         | Geodon®   | Stiness/Restlessness<br>Nausea/Dizziness<br>Insomnia<br>Tiredness<br>Cough<br>Upset stomach<br>Shaking<br>Rash<br><b>Tell your doctor if you have ever had heart problems. Contact your doctor or an emergency room immediately if you faint or feel a change in your heartbeat.</b> | Heart and blood pressure Medications<br>Cytotoxic or immunosuppressive Medications<br>Anticonvulsants<br>Anxiety or sleep medications<br>Parkinson medications<br>Antibiotic or antibacterial Medications<br>Antipsychotics<br>Medications used after surgery<br>Malaria medications<br>Mood stabilizers<br>MAOI antidepressants |

# Medications Approved by the FDA for Treatment of Depression

(but not specifically for bipolar disorder)

| Medication Class   | Medication   | Brand Name   | Common side effects   | May interact with   |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI)                 | Citalopram<br>Escitalopram<br>Fluvoxamine<br>Paroxetine<br>Fluoxetine<br>Sertraline<br>Vilazodone HCl                                    | Celexa®<br>Lexapro®<br>Luvox®<br>Paxil®<br>Prozac®<br>Zoloft®<br>Vibryd®   | Nausea<br>Insomnia<br>Sleepiness<br>Agitation<br>Sexual dysfunction   | MAOI antidepressants<br>Tricyclic antidepressants<br>Alcohol<br>Anxiety medications<br>Blood thinning medications<br>Anticonvulsants<br>Heart medications   |
| Norepinephrine and dopamine reuptake inhibitors (NDRI)         | Bupropion  | Wellbutrin®  | Agitation<br>Insomnia<br>Anxiety<br>Dry mouth<br>Headache<br><b>Seizures are a danger when there are specific risk factors such as previous seizures, heart trauma, eating disorders, or abrupt stopping of alcohol, anxiety medications, or sleep medications.</b> | MAOI antidepressants<br>Tricyclic antidepressants<br>Anxiety medications<br>Steroid medications<br>Anticonvulsants<br>Alcohol<br>Diabetes medications   |
| Serotonin antagonist and reuptake inhibitor (SARI)             | Trazodone<br>Nefazodone*   | Desyrel®   | Nausea<br>Dizziness<br>Sleepiness<br>Dry mouth<br>Constipation<br>Weight gain<br>Nefazodone can rarely cause serious liver damage.  | Anxiety medications such as BuSpar or Ativan<br>MAOI antidepressants<br>Heart medications such as Lanoxin or Digitek<br>Sleep medications   |
| Serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor (SNRI)         | Venlafaxine<br>Duloxetine<br>Levomilnacipran   | Effexor®<br>Cymbalta®<br>Fetzima®  | Anxiety<br>Nausea<br>Dizziness<br>Sleepiness<br>Sexual dysfunction<br>Withdrawal symptoms when stopped abruptly   | MAOI antidepressants<br>Stomach medications such as Tagamet   |
| Noradrenergic and specific serotonergic antidepressant (NaSSA) | Mirtazapine  | Remeron®   | Sleepiness<br>Increased appetite<br>Weight gain<br>Dizziness<br>Dry mouth<br>Constipation   | MAOI antidepressants<br>Alcohol<br>Anxiety medications  |
| Tricyclic (TCA), Tetracyclic                                   | Clomipramine<br>Amitriptyline<br>Desipramine<br>Nortriptyline<br>Trimipramine<br>Imipramine<br>Protriptyline<br>Amoxapine<br>Maprotiline | Anafranil®<br>Elavil®<br>Norpramin®<br>Pamelor®<br>Surmontil®<br>Tofranil®<br>Vivactil®<br>Asendin®<br>Ludiomil® | Sleepiness<br>Nervousness<br>Dizziness<br>Dry mouth<br>Constipation<br>Urinary retention<br>Increased appetite<br>Weight gain<br>Low blood pressure<br>Sexual dysfunction<br>May be toxic if levels in blood get too high   | Alcohol<br>Sleep medications<br>Allergy medications<br>Cold medications<br>Pain medications<br>Heart medications<br>Anxiety medications<br>Birth control pills<br>Anticonvulsants<br>Spasm or cramp medications |
| Monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI)                             | Phenelzine<br>Tranylcypromine<br>Isocarboxazid<br>Selegiline   | Nardil®<br>Parnate®<br>Marplan®<br>Emsam   | Dizziness<br>Dry mouth<br>Urinary retention<br>Sleep problems<br>Low blood pressure<br>Weight gain<br>Sexual dysfunction<br><b>Can cause dangerously high blood pressure if taken with the wrong food.</b>  | <b>Fatal interaction with some prescribed and over-the-counter medications including pain or cold medications</b><br>Foods containing tyramine, such as some cheeses, meats, or beans<br>Caffeine<br>Alcohol    |

# Anticonvulsants that may be Prescribed for Bipolar Disorder

(but not officially approved for this use)

| Medication    | Brand Name   | Common side effects   | May interact with  |
|---------------|--|---|--|
| Carbamazepine | Equetro™<br>Tegretol®<br>Tegretol-XR®<br>Epitol®<br>Carbatrol® | Blurred vision<br>Dizziness<br>Dry mouth<br>Drowsiness<br>Nausea<br>Decreased white blood cell count<br>Shaking<br><b>If rash occurs, contact your doctor immediately.</b>                                  | Birth control pills (can make them ineffective)<br>Mood stabilizers such as Lithium, Depakote, or Lamictal<br>Tricyclic antidepressants<br>Other anticonvulsants<br>Macrolide antibiotics<br>Anxiety medications<br>Cancer medications<br>HIV/AIDS medications<br>Cytotoxic or immunosuppressive Medications<br>Grapefruit juice |
| Oxcarbazepine | Trileptal®   | Blurred vision<br>Dizziness<br>Dry mouth<br>Sedation<br>Upset stomach<br>Drowsiness<br>Unsteadiness   | Drugs that interact with carbamazepine (see above)<br>Birth control pills (can make them ineffective)<br>Blood pressure or heart Medications   |
| Topiramate    | Topamax®   | Drowsiness<br>Memory problems<br>Feeling “dulled”<br>Weight loss<br>Kidney stones<br><b>If you have changes in vision, eye pain or redness, or increased eye pressure, contact your doctor immediately.</b> | Birth control pills<br>Other anticonvulsants<br>Motion sickness or glaucoma medications such as Diamox<br>Heart medications<br>Sleep medications<br>Allergy medications<br>Alcohol<br>Tobacco  |
| Zonisamide    | Zonegran®  | <b>Possible allergic reaction</b><br>Drowsiness<br>Upset stomach<br>Headache<br>Irritability<br>Inability to sweat (contact your doctor if you get overheated or feverish)                                  | Birth control pills<br>Other anticonvulsants<br>SSRI antidepressants<br>Antibiotic or antifungal medications<br>Allergy medications<br>Heart medications<br>Alcohol  |

Please note that these lists may not include all possible side effects or all possible interactions. You should thoroughly discuss all medication choices with your doctor. DBSA does not endorse or recommend the use of any specific treatment or medication for mood disorders. Consult your doctor for more information about specific treatments or medications. Some of the uses under discussion in this brochure may not have been approved by the FDA.



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