

Antidepressant Conversions

Switching Scenario	Suggested Approach	Special Considerations
SSRI to SSRI	Direct Switch—Stop old SSRI and start new SSRI at low dose	Fluoxetine—Stop fluoxetine (taper if dose >40 mg/day) and start new SSRI after 7-day washout
SSRI to duloxetine	Stop SSRI and start duloxetine 60 mg once daily (Evidence Level B-1)	N/A
SSRI to venlafaxine	Stop SSRI and start venlafaxine at low dose (37.5 mg to 75 mg total daily dose)	Paroxetine to/from venlafaxine—slow taper due to high withdrawal risk (e.g. over 4 to 6 weeks)
Venlafaxine to SSRI	Stop venlafaxine and start SSRI at therapeutic dose	Could consider cross-taper, starting the new SSRI at a low dose (especially if patient on high dose of venlafaxine)
Venlafaxine to duloxetine	Stop venlafaxine and start duloxetine 60 mg daily (Evidence Level B; non-randomized clinical trial) if venlafaxine dose <150 mg/day	If patient taking ≥150 mg/day of venlafaxine, consider tapering over 4 weeks prior to discontinuing, and starting duloxetine at 60 mg every-other-day
Duloxetine to SSRI	Stop duloxetine and start SSRI at therapeutic dose	If patient taking ≥60 mg/day of duloxetine, consider tapering to lower dose prior to discontinuing and starting new agent
Duloxetine to venlafaxine	Stop duloxetine and start venlafaxine at therapeutic dose	If patient taking high dose duloxetine, consider tapering to lower dose prior to discontinuing and starting venlafaxine
Bupropion to/from another agent	Cross-taper	Consider reducing bupropion dose over one week, although withdrawal is uncommon