

# What You Should Know

## Will this medicine work for me?

- The antidepressants presented in this decision aid all work the same for treating depression.
- Most people with depression can find one that can make them feel better.
- 6 out of 10 people will feel better with the first antidepressant they try.
- 4 out 10 people will have to try other antidepressants before they find the one that is right for them.

## How long before I feel better?

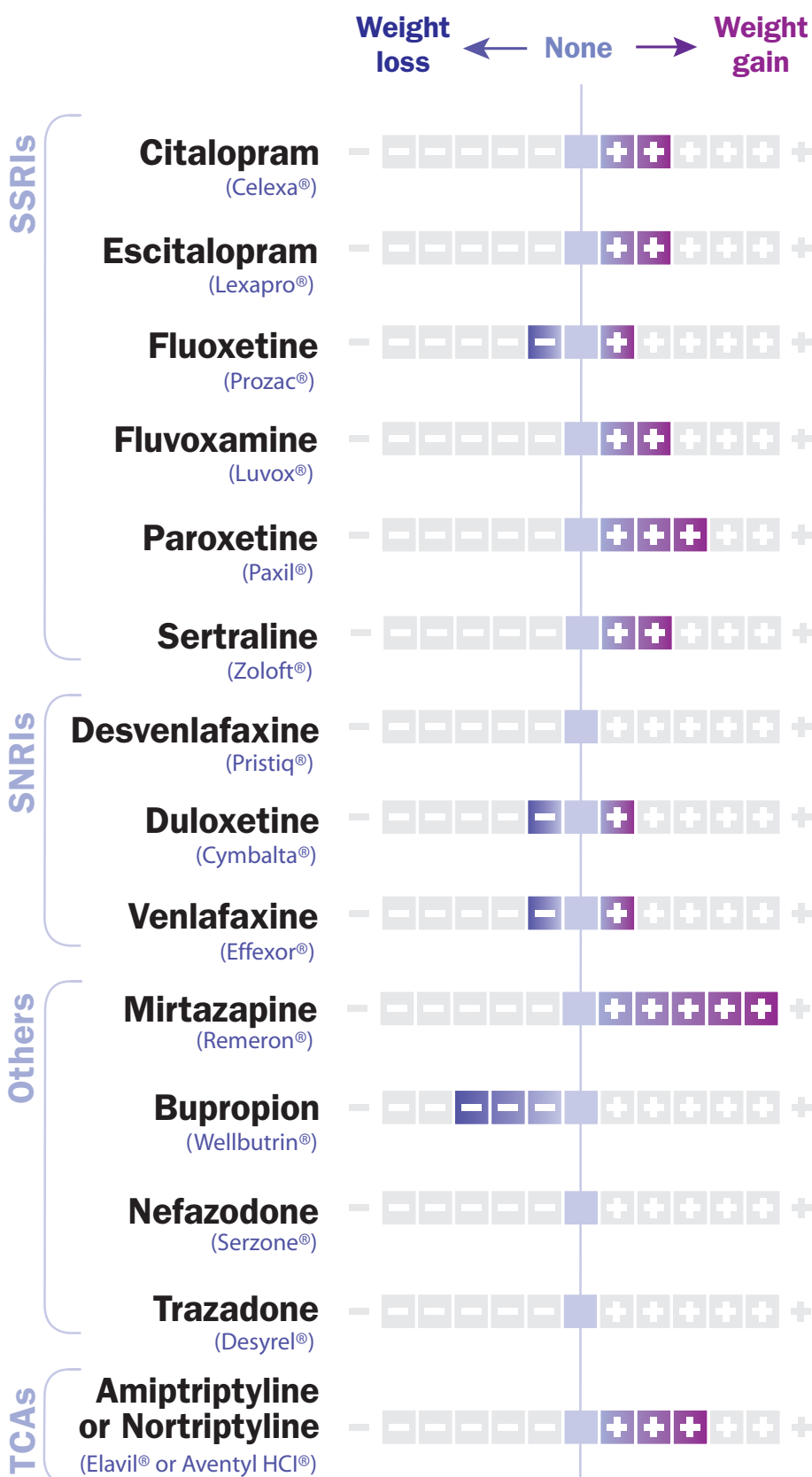
- Most people need to take an antidepressant regularly for at least 6 weeks to begin to get the full effect.

## Understanding side effects

- Most people taking antidepressants have at least one side effect.
- Many side effects go away after a few weeks, but some only go away after you stop the medicine.

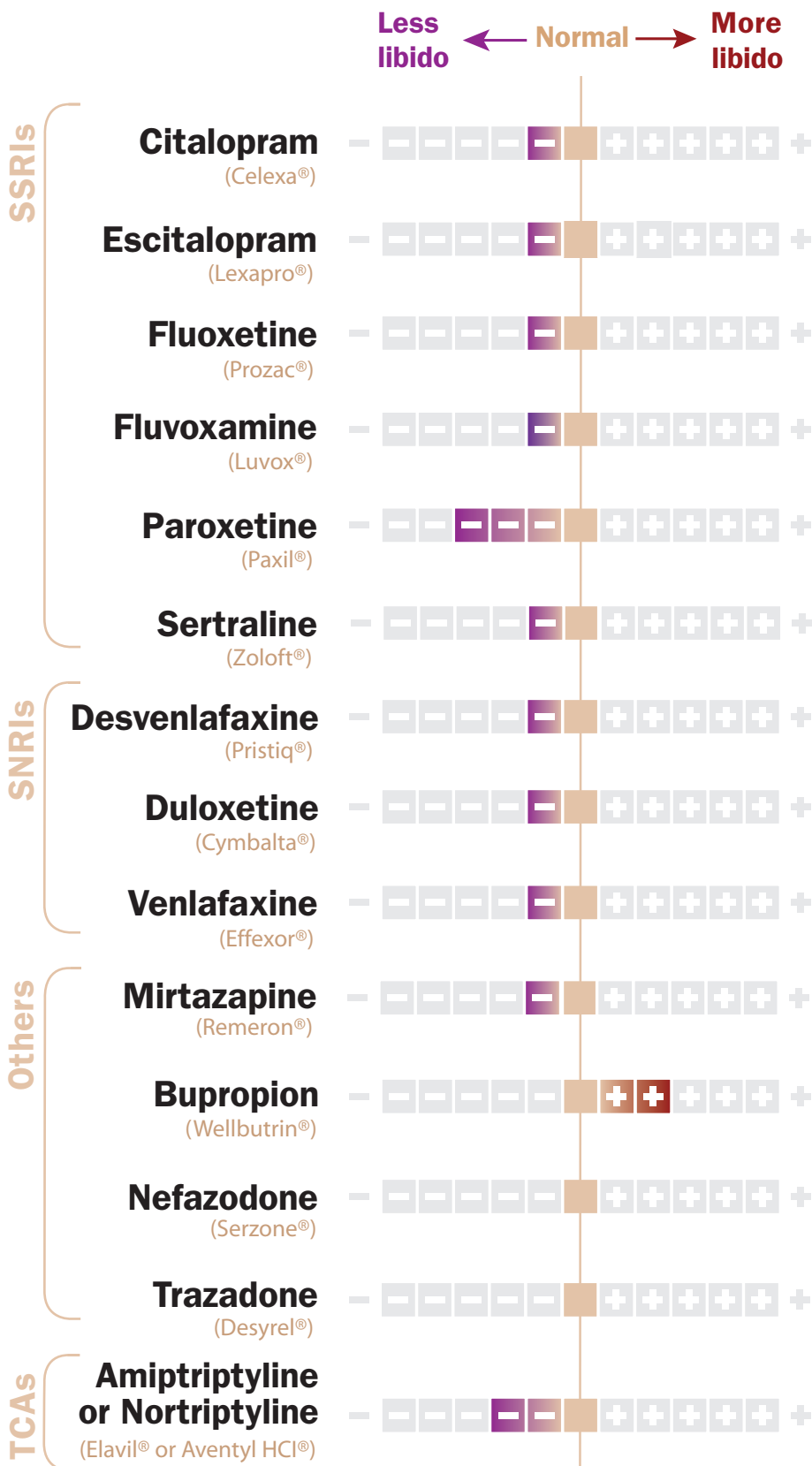
# Weight Change

Weight change is most likely to occur over a long period of time and depends on your actual weight.



# Sexual Issues

Some people may experience loss of sexual desire (libido) or loss of ability to reach orgasm because of their antidepressant.



# Cost

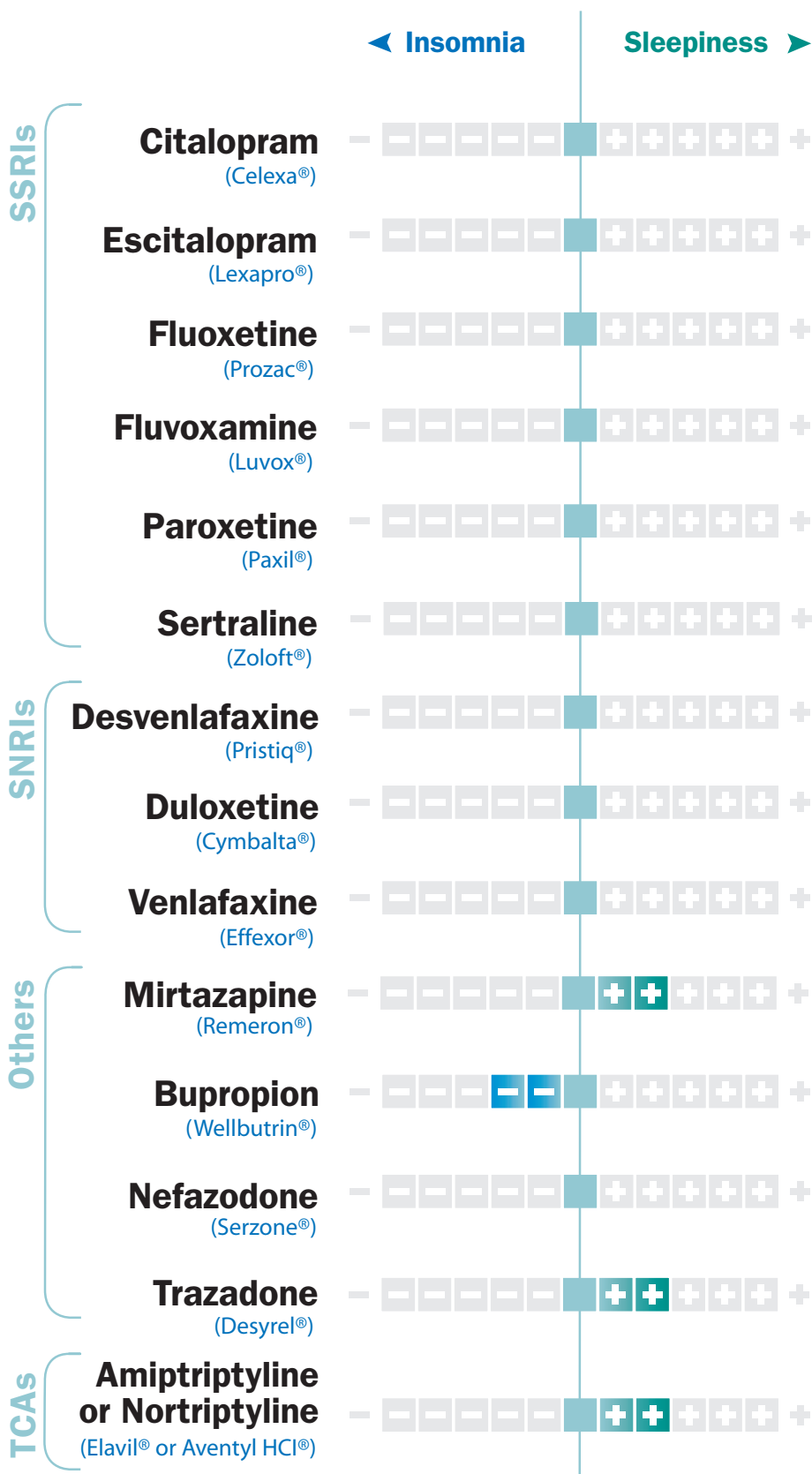
These figures are estimates and are for comparative reference only. Actual out-of-pocket costs vary over time, by pharmacy, insurance plan coverage, preparation and dosage.

Less  $\longleftrightarrow$  More

Category	Drug Name (Brand Name)	Cost
SSRIs	<b>Citalopram</b> (Celexa®)	\$4 / month – Super-stores drug program
	<b>Escitalopram</b> (Lexapro®)	\$85 / month – No generic available
	<b>Fluoxetine</b> (Prozac®)	\$4 / month – Super-stores drug program
	<b>Fluvoxamine</b> (Luvox®)	\$80 / month
	<b>Paroxetine</b> (Paxil®)	\$4 / month – Super-stores drug program
	<b>Sertraline</b> (Zoloft®)	\$29 / month
SNRIs	<b>Desvenlafaxine</b> (Pristiq®)	\$147 / month – No generic available
	<b>Duloxetine</b> (Cymbalta®)	\$154 / month – No generic available
	<b>Venlafaxine</b> (Effexor®)	\$130 / month
Others	<b>Mirtazapine</b> (Remeron®)	\$50 / month
	<b>Bupropion</b> (Wellbutrin®)	\$100 / month
	<b>Nefazodone</b> (Serzone®)	\$69 / month
	<b>Trazadone</b> (Desyrel®)	\$4 / month – Super-stores drug program
TCAs	<b>Amipriptyline or Nortriptyline</b> (Elavil® or Aventyl HCl®)	\$4 / month – Super-stores drug program

# Sleep

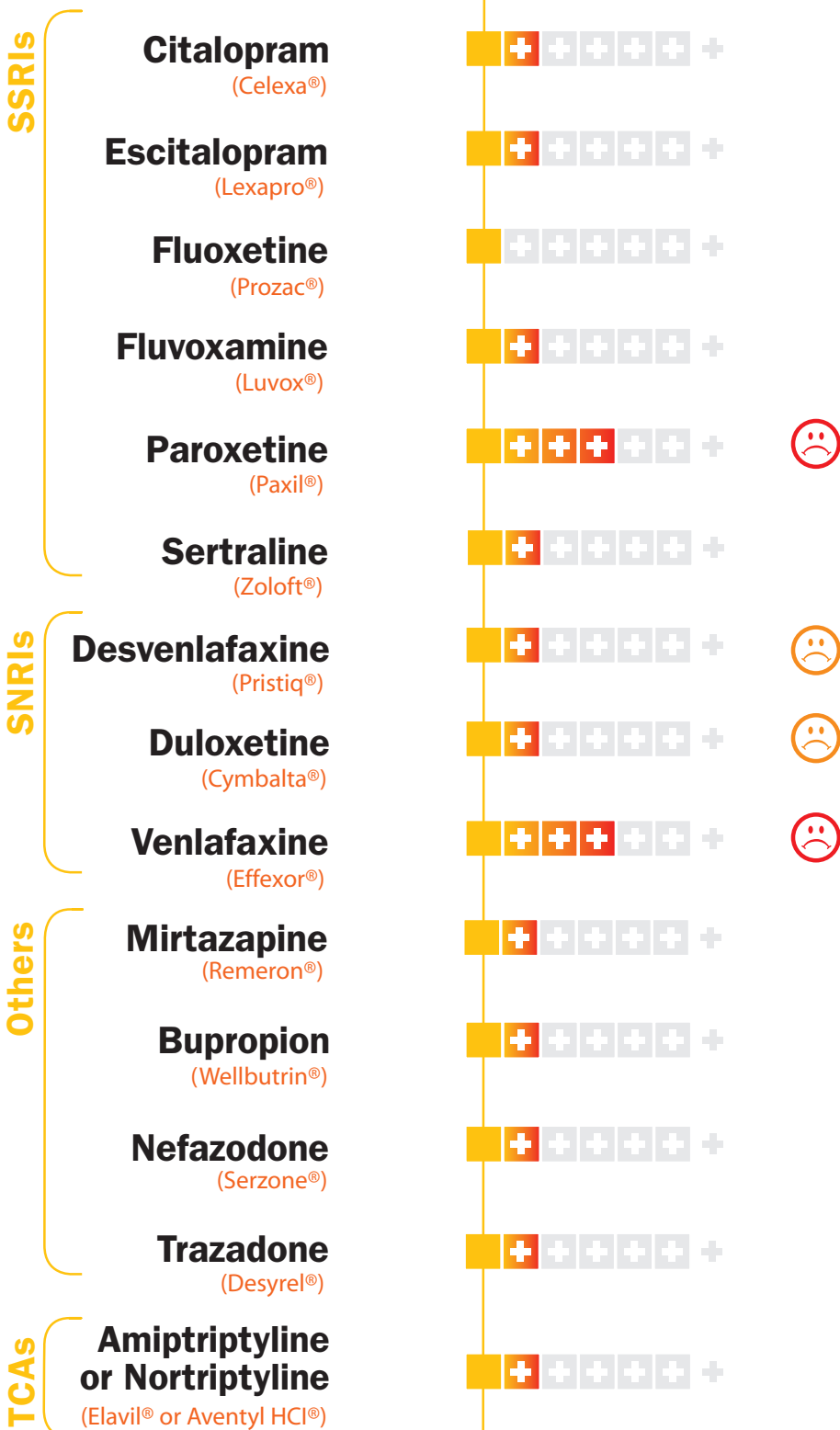
Some people may experience sleepiness or insomnia because of their antidepressant.



# Stopping Approach

Quitting your medicine all at once can make you feel sick, as if you had the flu (e.g. headache, dizziness, light-headedness, nausea or anxiety).

None → More likely Sick if you skip



# Considerations

All of the following depression medications may cause:

- constipation, diarrhea and nausea
- increased risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviors (18- to 24-year-olds)
- harm to an unborn child (FDA Category C, unless otherwise noted)
- risk of developing serotonin syndrome, a potentially life-threatening condition
- possible drug-drug interactions

## Additional considerations

### SSRIs

#### Citalopram

(Celexa®)

none

#### Escitalopram

(Lexapro®)

none

#### Fluoxetine

(Prozac®)

none

#### Fluvoxamine

(Luvox®)

**More likely** to cause constipation, diarrhea and nausea  
Not FDA approved for Major Depressive Disorder

#### Paroxetine

(Paxil®)

Shown to cause harm to an unborn child (FDA Category D)

#### Sertraline

(Zoloft®)

**More likely** to cause diarrhea

### SNRIs

#### Desvenlafaxine

(Pristiq®)

Should be administered cautiously in patients with preexisting hypertension

#### Duloxetine

(Cymbalta®)

Reduces pain

Should be administered cautiously in patients with preexisting hypertension

#### Venlafaxine

(Effexor®)

**More likely** to cause nausea and vomiting

Possible increased risk of cardiovascular adverse events

Should be administered cautiously in patients with preexisting hypertension

### Others

#### Mirtazapine

(Remeron®)

Faster onset of action

#### Bupropion

(Wellbutrin®)

May increase risk of seizures

#### Nefazodone

(Serzone®)

May increase risk of hepatotoxicity

#### Trazadone

(Desyrel®)

May cause dizziness upon standing

Could cause painful erection

### TCAs

#### Amipriptyline or Nortriptyline

(Elavil® or Aventyl HCl®)

**More likely** to cause constipation, diarrhea and nausea

Reduces pain

Less recommended for elderly