

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 and the rest will have to try other antidepressants before they find the one that is right for them.

How long before I feel better?

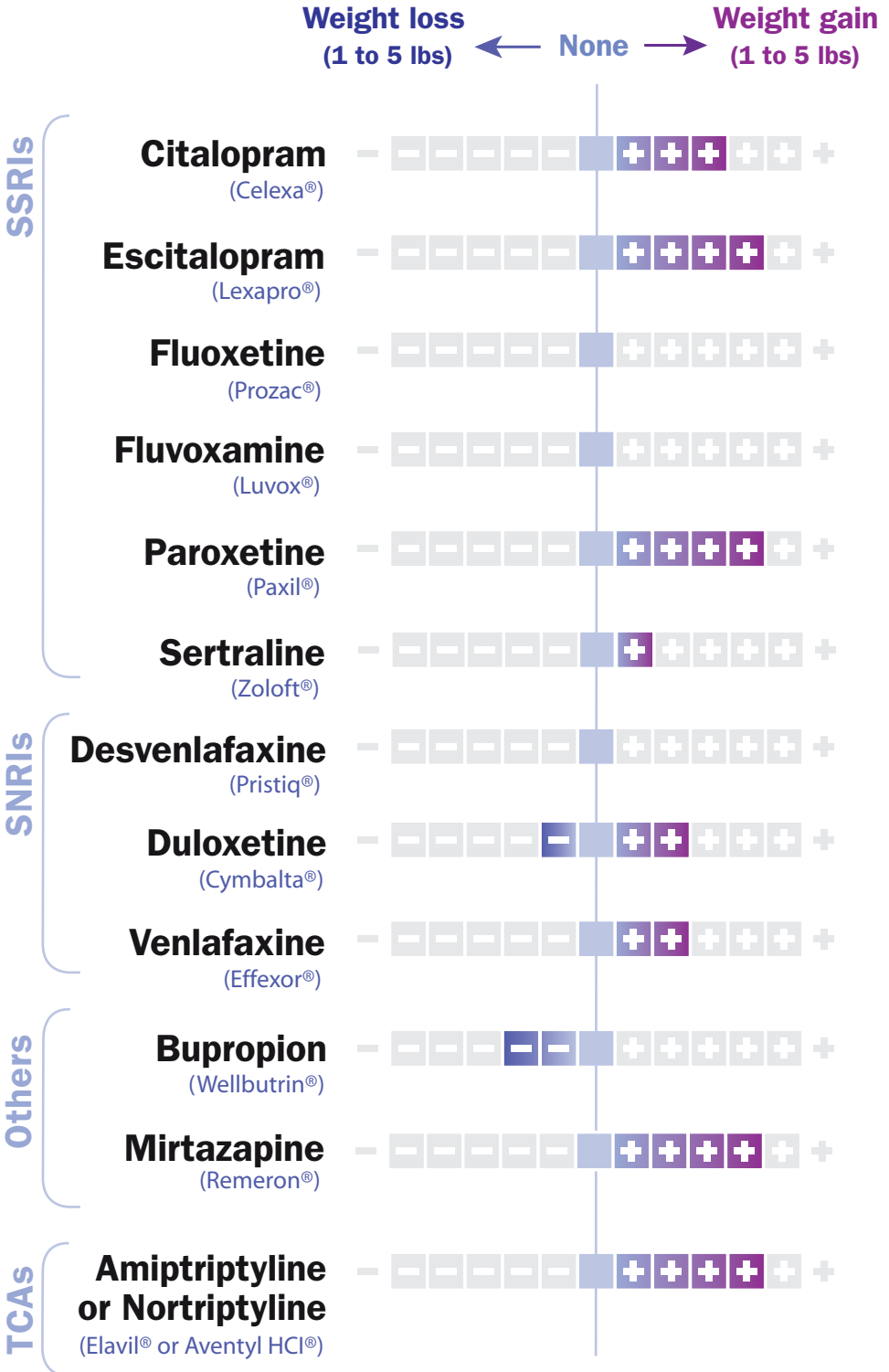
- Most people need to take an antidepressant regularly for at least 6 weeks to begin to get the full effect.

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.

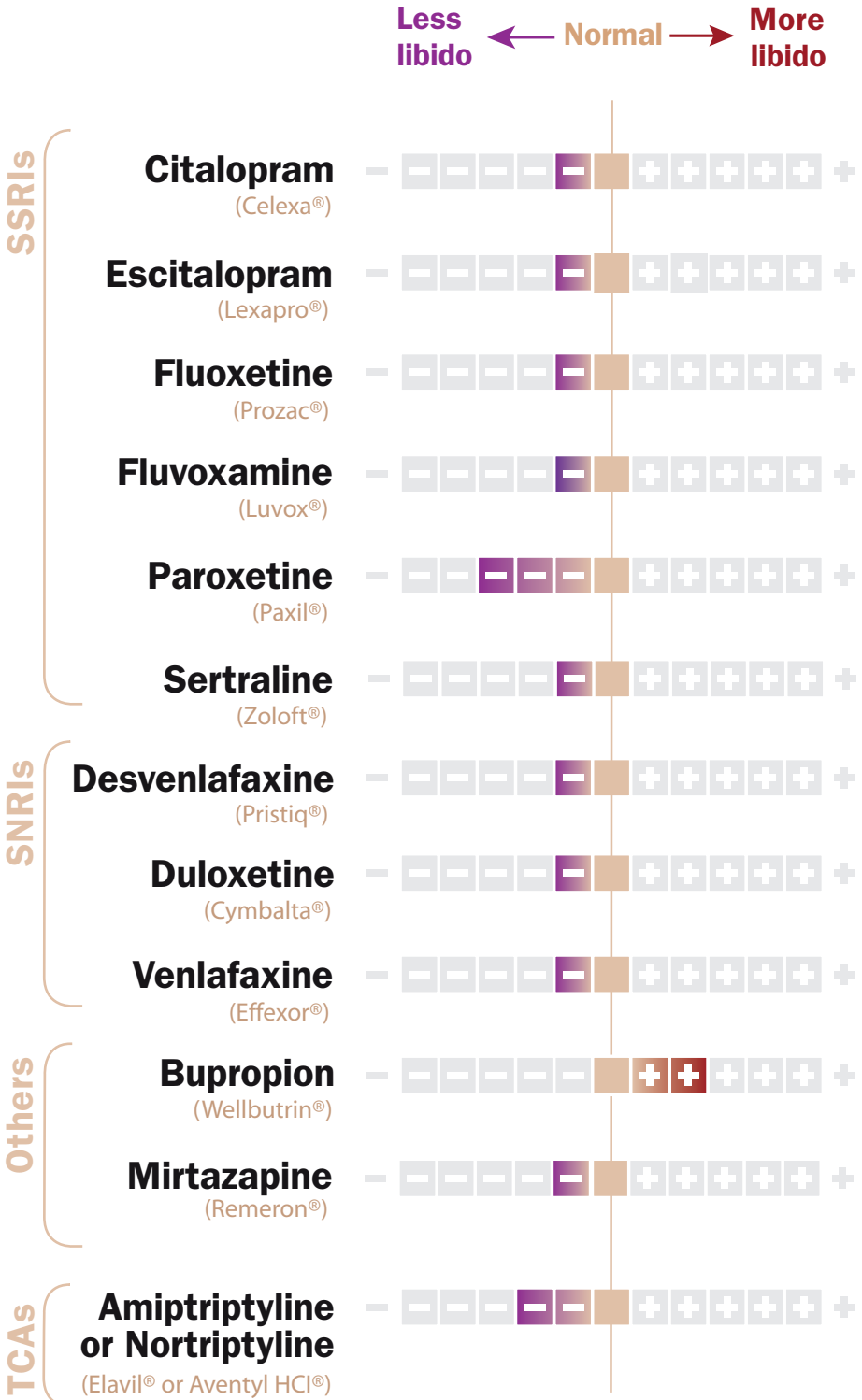
Weight Change

Some people may experience weight change. It is most likely to occur over six to twelve months and depends on your actual weight. The chart below is based on a 150 lb person.



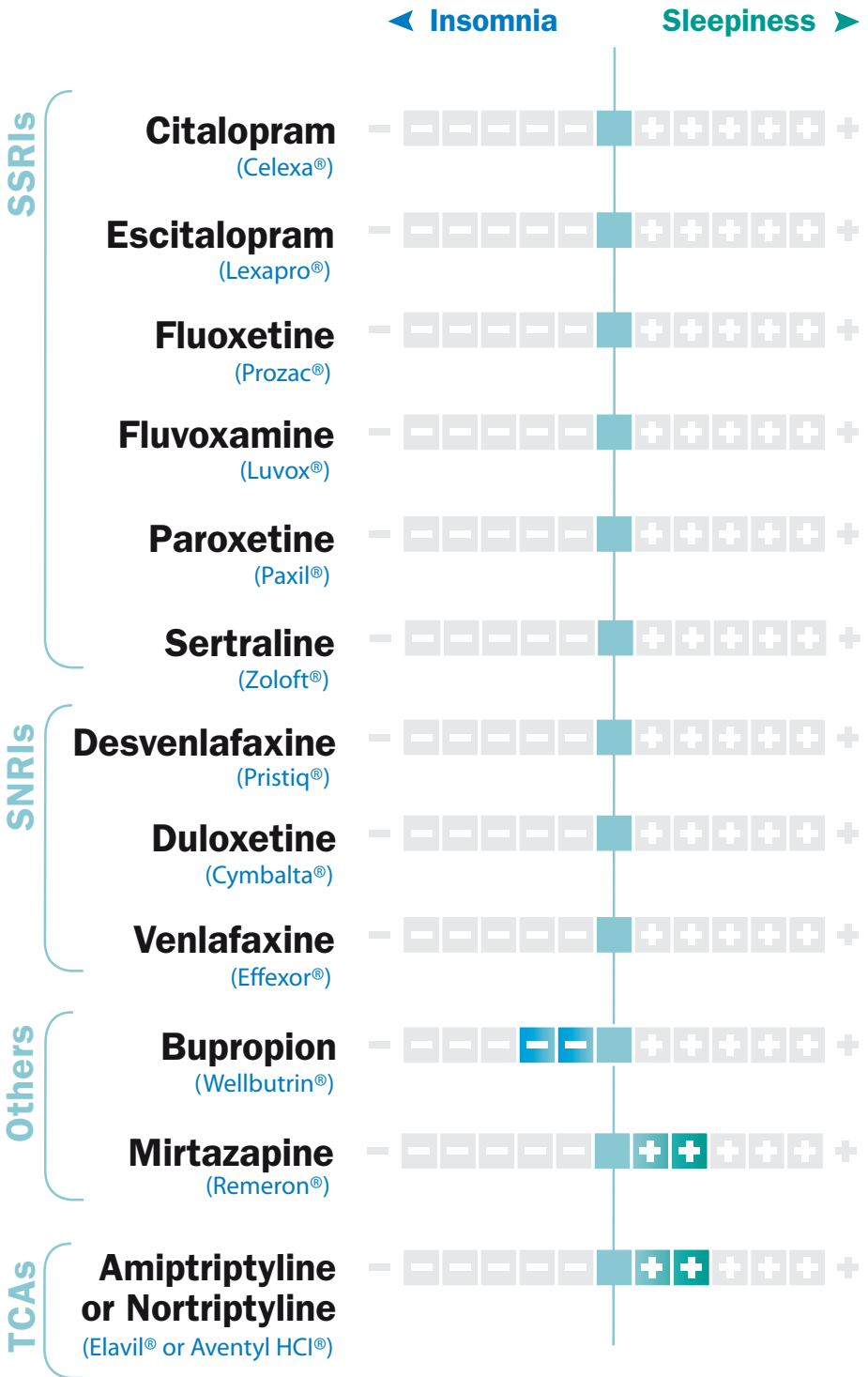
Sexual Issues

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



Sleep













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



Cost

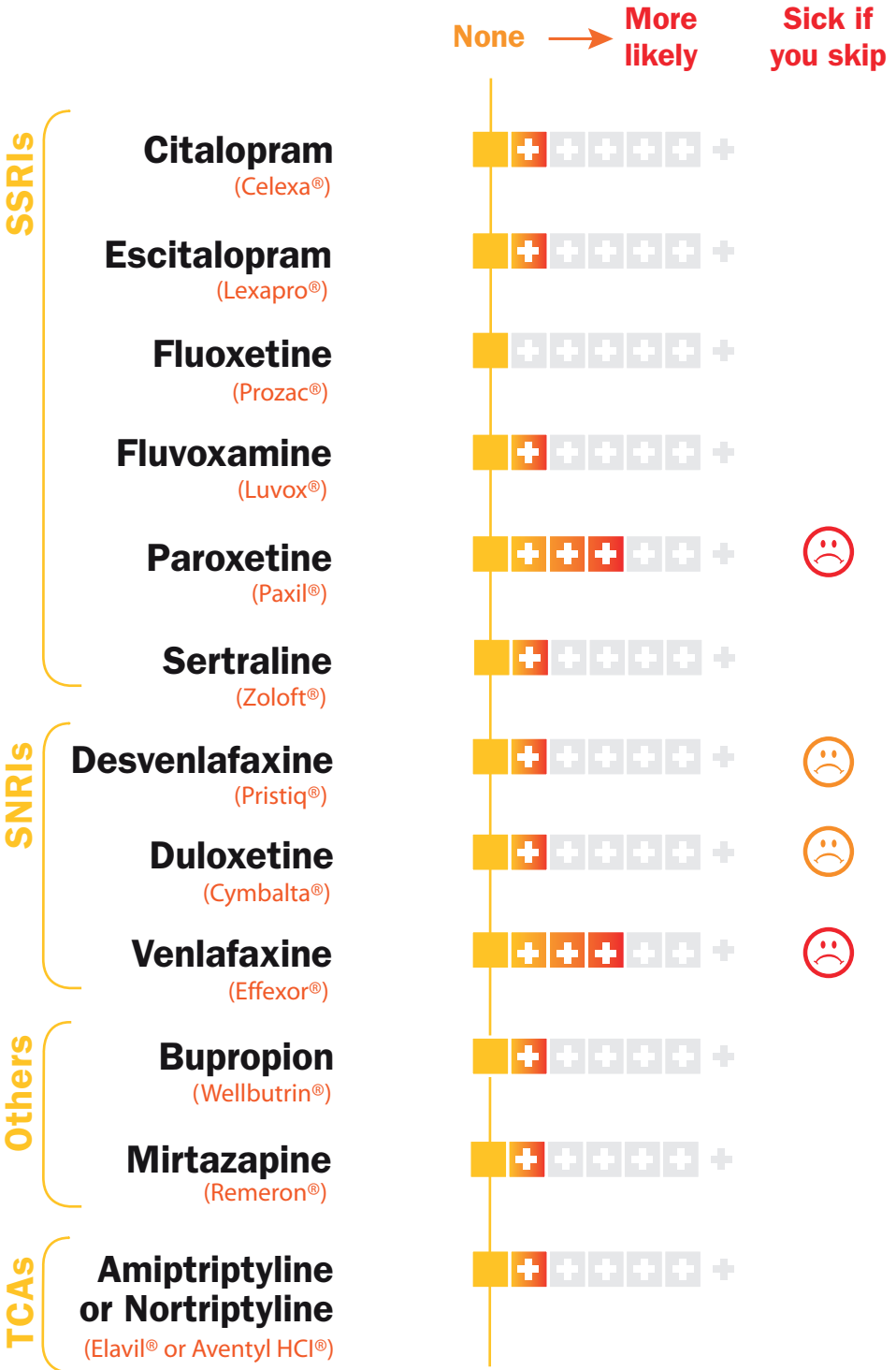
These figures are estimates and are for comparative reference only. Actual out-of-pocket costs vary over time, by pharmacy, insurance plan coverage, preparation and dosage.

Less  More

SSRIs	Citalopram (Celexa®)	-  +	\$4 / month – Super-stores drug program
	Escitalopram (Lexapro®)	-  +	\$113 / month – No generic available
	Fluoxetine (Prozac®)	-  +	\$4 / month – Super-stores drug program
	Fluvoxamine (Luvox®)	-  +	\$80 / month
	Paroxetine (Paxil®)	-  +	\$4 / month – Super-stores drug program
	Sertraline (Zoloft®)	-  +	\$29 / month
SNRIs	Desvenlafaxine (Pristiq®)	-  +	\$147 / month – No generic available
	Duloxetine (Cymbalta®)	-  +	\$154 / month – No generic available
	Venlafaxine (Effexor®)	-  +	\$130 / month
Others	Bupropion (Wellbutrin®)	-  +	\$100 / month
	Mirtazapine (Remeron®)	-  +	\$50 / month
TCAs	Amipriptyline or Nortriptyline (Elavil® or Aventyl HCl®)	-  +	\$4 / month – Super-stores drug program

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).



Keep in Mind

Depression medicines may cause some:

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

Additional considerations

SSRIs

Citalopram (Celexa®)

Can cause problems with your heart

Escitalopram (Lexapro®)

Currently no other issues

Fluoxetine (Prozac®)

More likely to interact with other drugs you are taking

Fluvoxamine (Luvox®)

More likely to cause constipation, diarrhea or nausea
Not officially recognized as a treatment for Major Depressive Disorder

Paroxetine (Paxil®)

If you are pregnant, this medicine is more likely to cause problems with your unborn child

Sertraline (Zoloft®)

More likely to cause diarrhea

SNRIs

Desvenlafaxine (Pristiq®)

Tell your doctor if you have high blood pressure

Duloxetine (Cymbalta®)

Can help with pain

Tell your doctor if you have high blood pressure

Venlafaxine (Effexor®)

More likely to cause nausea and vomiting

Can cause problems with your heart

Tell your doctor if you have high blood pressure

Others

Bupropion (Wellbutrin®)

Higher risk of seizures

Mirtazapine (Remeron®)

Starts to work more quickly

TCAs

Amipriptyline or Nortriptyline (Elavil® or Aventyl HCl®)

More likely to cause constipation, diarrhea or nausea

Can help with pain

If you are elderly, this medication may not be the best option