



Treating Patients with Major Depressive Disorder in Primary Care

We have adopted the MacArthur Foundation's *Depression Management Tool Kit*. You can find the text of this guideline, as well as other useful tools, online under "Resources For Clinicians" at:

<http://www.depression-primarycare.org/>

As an addendum to the MacArthur Foundation's *Depression Management Tool Kit*, the following guidelines for effective antidepressant management have been adopted based on the Healthcare Effectiveness and Data Information Set (HEDIS®):

➤ **Effective Acute Phase Treatment**

Patients 18 years of age and older diagnosed with a new episode of depression and treated with antidepressant medication should remain on an antidepressant drug during the entire 84-day (12 week) Acute Treatment Phase.

➤ **Effective Continuation Phase Treatment**

Patients 18 years of age and older diagnosed with a new episode of depression and treated with antidepressant medication should remain on an antidepressant drug for 180 days (6 months).

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