

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?

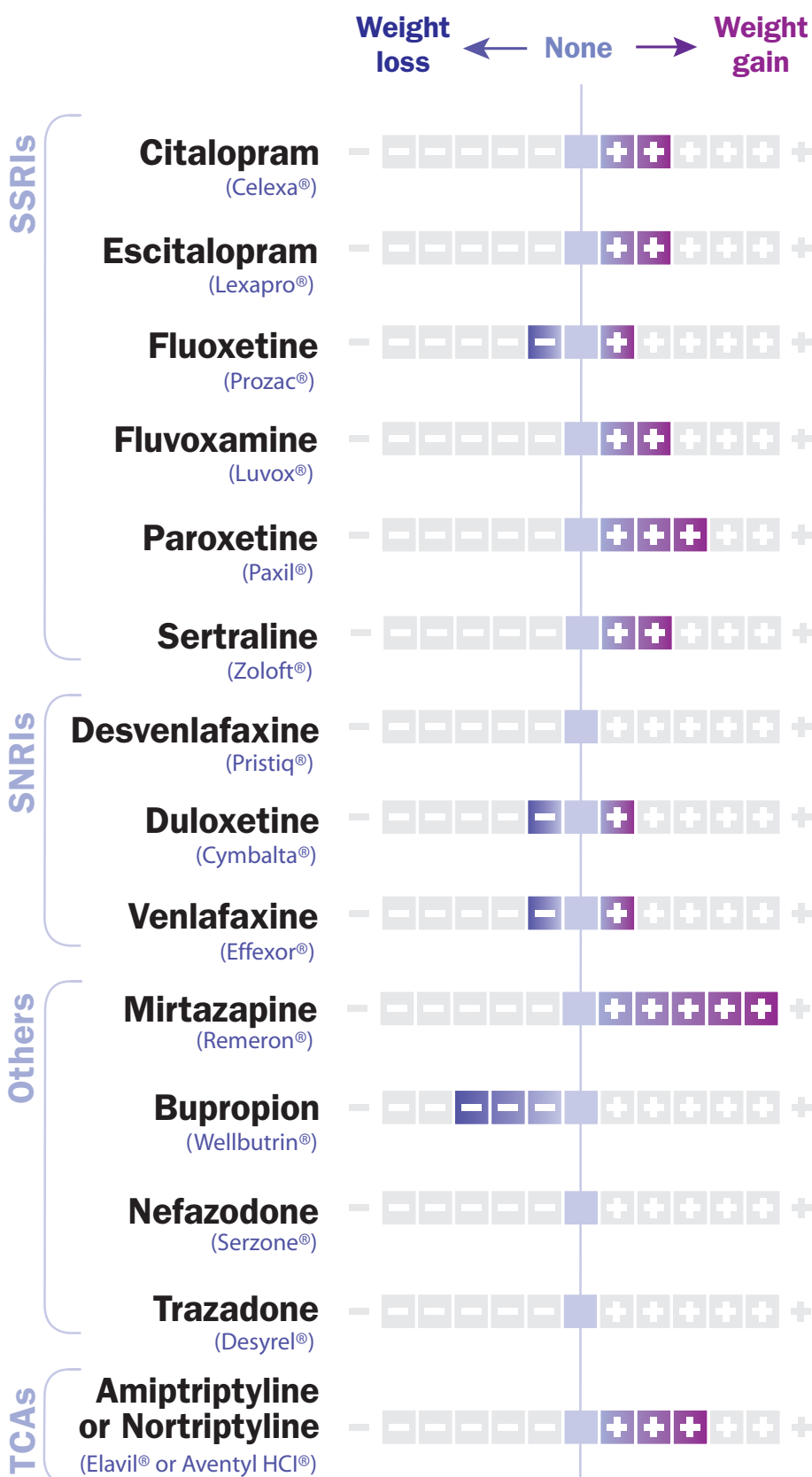
- Most people need to take an antidepressant regularly for at least 6 weeks to begin to get the full effect.

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.

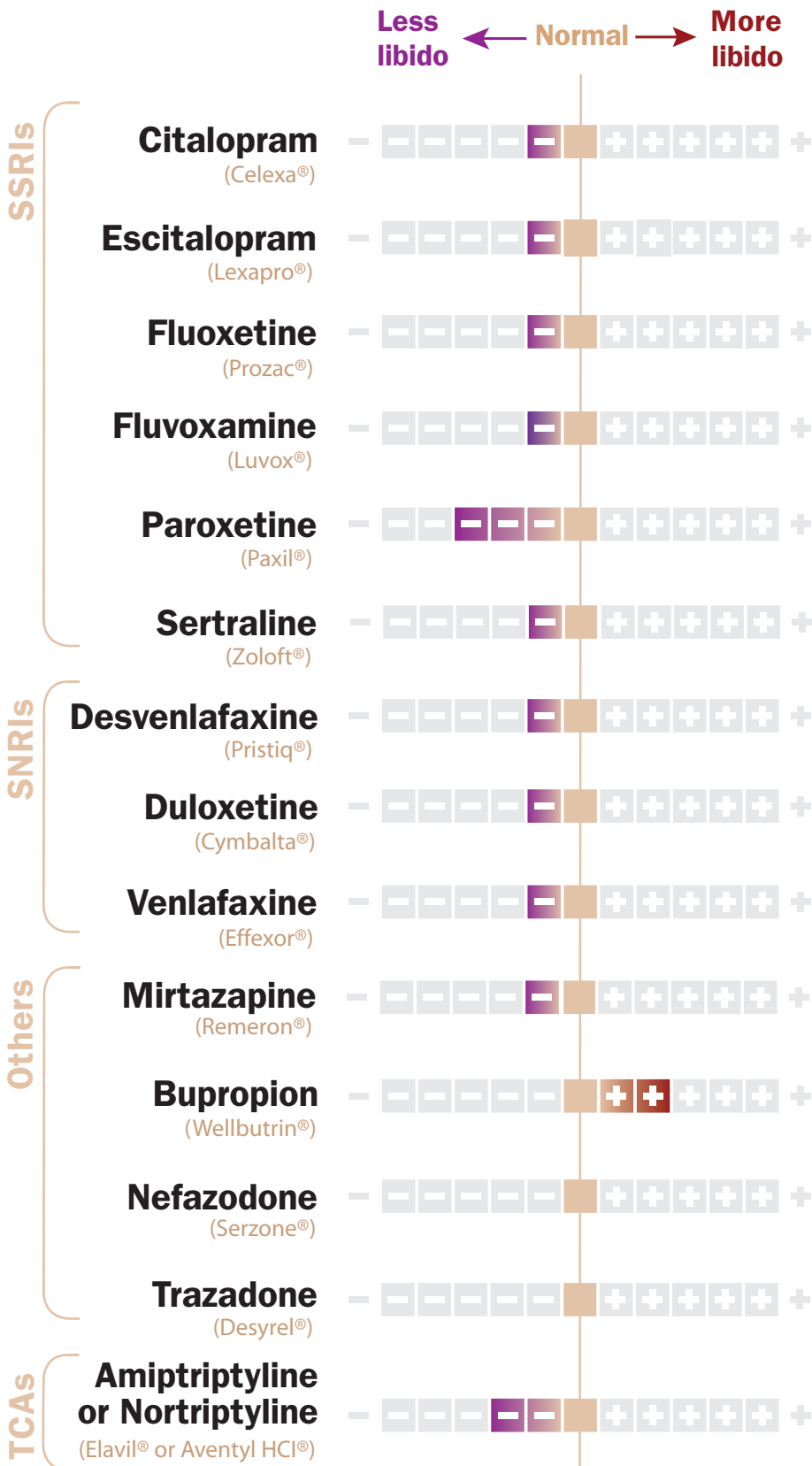
Weight Change

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

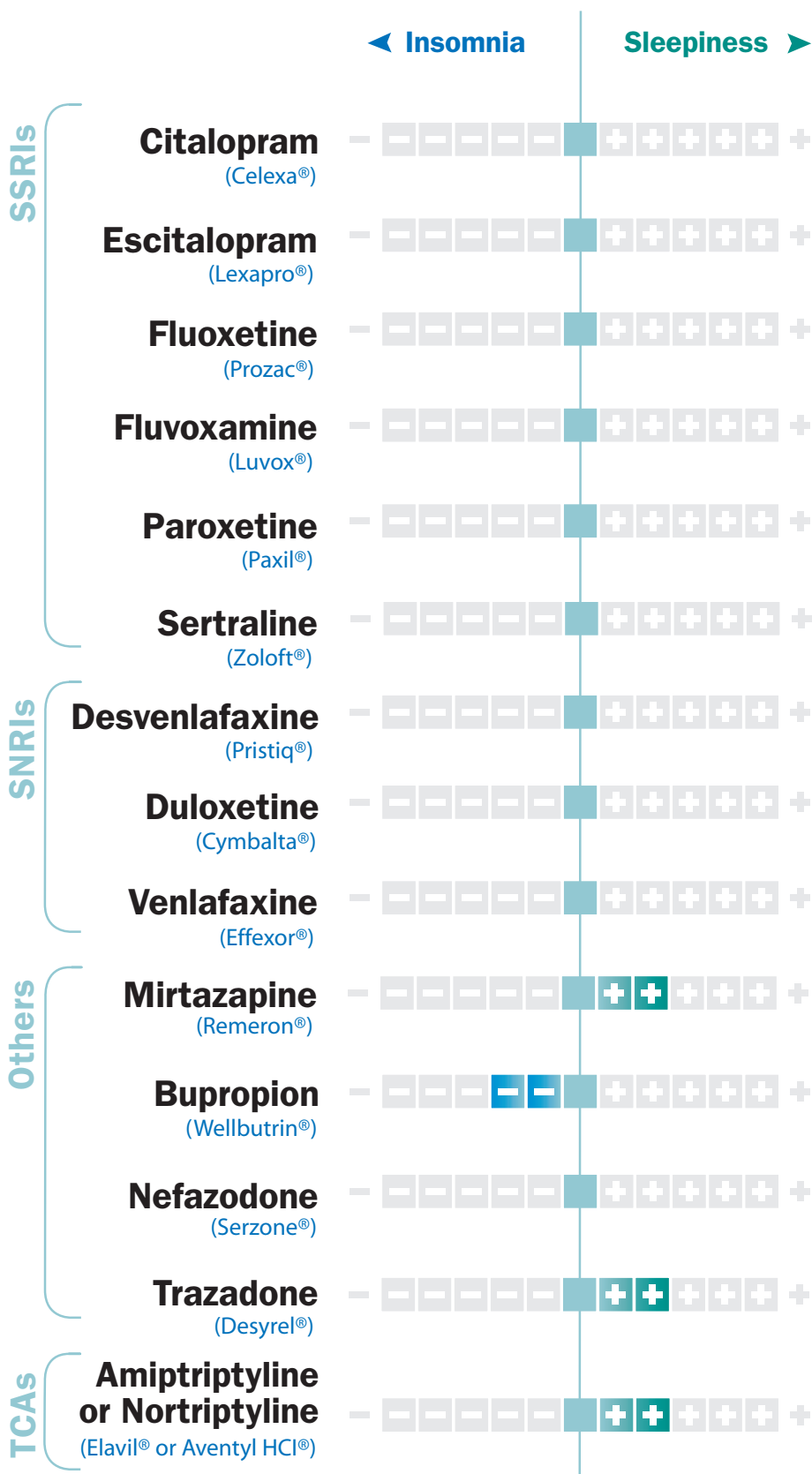
These figures are estimates and are for comparative reference only. Actual out-of-pocket costs vary over time, by pharmacy, insurance plan coverage, preparation and dosage.

Less  More

SSRIs	Citalopram (Celexa®)	–  +	\$4 / month – Super-stores drug program
	Escitalopram (Lexapro®)	–  +	\$85 / 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	Mirtazapine (Remeron®)	–  +	\$50 / month
	Bupropion (Wellbutrin®)	–  +	\$100 / month
	Nefazodone (Serzone®)	–  +	\$69 / month
	Trazadone (Desyrel®)	–  +	\$4 / month – Super-stores drug program
TCAs	Amipriptyline or Nortriptyline (Elavil® or Aventyl HCl®)	–  +	\$4 / month – Super-stores drug program

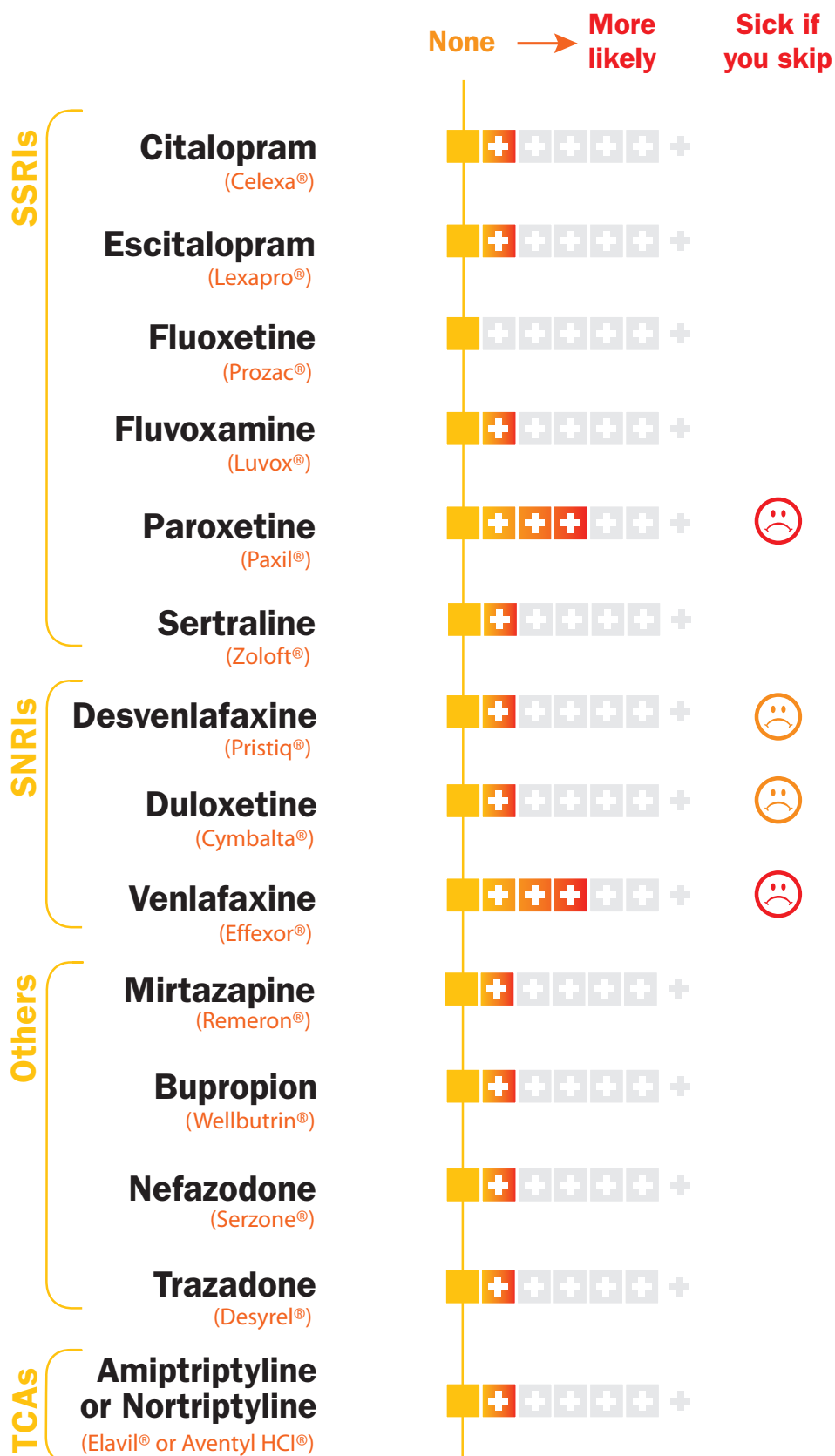
Sleep

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).



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