Depression in adults: discussing first-line treatments for more severe depression

Discuss treatment options with people who have a new episode of more severe depression. Match their choice of treatment to their clinical needs and preferences.

If the person has a clear preference, or experience from previous treatment to use as a guide: support the person’s choice, unless there are concerns about suitability for this episode of depression.

Treatment options are listed in order of recommended use, based on the committee’s interpretation of their clinical and cost effectiveness and consideration of implementation factors.

- Individual cognitive behavioural therapy + antidepressant
- Individual cognitive behavioural therapy
- Individual behavioural activation
- Individual problem solving
- Counselling
- Guided self-help
- Group exercise
- Antidepressant medication
- Interpersonal psychotherapy
- Short-term psychodynamic psychotherapy

Use this summary in conjunction with table 2 in the NICE guideline on depression in adults: treatment and management.

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