

Drug	Formulation	Indication	Less suitable because	Prescribing in 2009 (GPs in England)		Practice
				No. scrips	£000	No. patients
promazine	tablets, oral solution	psychosis	not sufficiently active by mouth	163 000	1 058	
amitriptyline/ perphenazine	Triptafen	depression with anxiety	individual dose adjustment of component drugs is not possible drug treatment for anxiety is short term whereas treatment of depression is long term an anxiolytic may mask an underlying condition	14 200	233.8	
clomipramine	Anafranil SR	symptoms of depressive illness, especially where sedation is required obsessional and phobic states adjunctive treatment of cataplexy associated with narcolepsy	tricyclic antidepressants have a long half-life that allows once-daily administration, usually at night; modified-release preparations are therefore unnecessary	30 400	441.7	
dosulepin	all	depressive illness, particularly where sedation is required	more dangerous in overdose than other tricyclic antidepressants	1 832 000	5 096	
isocarboxazid, phenelzine, tranylcypromine	all	depressive illness	little used due to high risk of dietary and drug interactions; tranylcypromine is the most hazardous of the MAOIs because of its stimulant action	2 900 22 700 11 700	214.2 469.7 1 023.3	

Table 1. Promazine and antidepressants classed as less suitable for prescribing by the *BNF* and its rationale for the designation *GP prescribing, England