

Specific Medications

Listed below is specific information on medications taken from the NAMI website.

Abilify (aripiprazole)

Aripiprazole is an "atypical" antipsychotic medication approved for the treatment of schizophrenia by the FDA in 2002. Aripiprazole helps manage positive symptoms (e.g., hallucinations, delusions, and thought disturbances) as well as negative symptoms (e.g., social withdrawal, inability to experience pleasure, and blunted affect) of schizophrenia. Aripiprazole has also been approved for the treatment of acute mania in bipolar disorder and as an add-on treatment for depression in adults.

Ambien (zolpidem)

Zolpidem is a short-acting non-benzodiazepine sleep inducing agent. Similar medications include Sonata and Lunesta. Chronic use may result in tolerance and/or dependence.

Adderall (amphetamine)

Amphetamine, dextroamphetamine, and mixed amphetamine salts are prescription medications that have been proven effective in the treatment of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children, adolescents and adults.

Ativan (lorazepam)

Lorazepam is an antianxiety agent that belongs to the class of medications called benzodiazepines (ben-zoe-dye-AZE-eh-peens). Similar medications include Valium® (diazepam), Xanax® (alprazolam), and Klonopin® (clonazepam). Lorazepam is used to treat symptoms of anxiety, irritability, and insomnia.

BuSpar (buspirone)

Buspirone is not chemically or pharmacologically related to other anti-anxiety medication such as benzodiazepines, barbiturates, or other sedative/anxiolytic drug. The exact mechanism of buspirone is unknown; however it seems to affect key receptors (serotonin and dopamine) in certain parts of the brain that are involved in mood and anxiety. Buspirone is indicated for the management of fear, tension and anxiety associated with anxiety disorders.

Celexa (citalopram hydrobromide)

Citalopram is an antidepressant medication that is also known as a Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor (SSRI). It is approved for the treatment of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) and Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD).



Clozaril (clozapine)

Clozapine is an atypical antipsychotic that is approved for schizophrenia that has not responded to other treatments. In schizophrenia, clozapine is useful for treating positive symptoms such as hallucinations, delusions, bizarre behavior and hostility. It also treats the negative symptoms such as withdrawal, blunted emotions, lack of motivation, and inability to experience pleasure or enjoyment.

Concerta (methylphenidate)

CONCERTA® is indicated for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). It provides an immediate release of medication followed by an extended release throughout the day.

Cymbalta (duloxetine)

Duloxetine is a serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor (or "SNRI") that is used to treat major depressive disorder (also, major depression or MDD). In addition, duloxetine is effective, and FDA approved, for the treatment of diabetic peripheral neuropathy (DPN).

Depakote (divalproex)

Valproic acid is a prescription medication that has been proven effective in the treatment of epilepsy, and manic and depressive episodes associated with bipolar disorder.

Effexor XR (venlafaxine)

Venlafaxine is an antidepressant medication that works on the neurotransmitters serotonin and norepinephrine. It is approved for the treatment of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD), Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD), panic disorder and social anxiety disorder (social phobia).

Fanapt (iloperidone)

Iloperidone is an atypical antipsychotic medication approved in May, 2009 to treat schizophrenia. Iloperidone can improve symptoms of schizophrenia such as hallucinations, delusions and disorganized thinking; in some people improvement in social isolation, reduced speech productivity and motivation can also occur.

Focalin (dexamethylphenidate)

Dexamethylphenidate is indicated for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). It is also available in an extended release form.

Geodon (ziprasidone)

Ziprasidone is an atypical antipsychotic medication approved to treat schizophrenia, acute agitation associated with schizophrenia (injection), and acute manic and mixed episodes of bipolar disorder. Ziprasidone can improve symptoms of schizophrenia such as: hallucinations, delusions, and disorganized thinking; in some people, improvement in social isolation, reduced speech productivity and motivation can also occur.

Haldol (haloperidol)

Haloperidol is an antipsychotic medication used to treat schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders. Haloperidol can improve symptoms of these disorders such as: hallucinations, delusions, and disorganized thinking. It is also used for tics and vocal utterances of Tourette's disorder and the management of severe behavioral problems in children.

Invega (paliperidone)

Paliperidone is an atypical antipsychotic medication approved to treat acute schizophrenia and as maintenance treatment for schizophrenia. Paliperidone can improve symptoms of schizophrenia such as hallucinations, delusions and disorganized thinking; in some people improvement in social isolation, reduced speech productivity and motivation can also occur.

Klonopin (clonazepam)

Clonazepam belongs to a class of medications called benzodiazepines. Similar medications include diazepam (Valium®) and alprazolam (Xanax®). This medication is FDA approved to treat certain types of seizure disorders (such as Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, akinetic myoclonic, and absence [also known as petit mal] seizures), and panic disorder, with or without agoraphobia.

Lamictal (lamotrigine)

Lamotrigine is an anticonvulsant drug approved for the treatment of seizures (epilepsy) in adults and children. It can be used alone, or in combination with other anticonvulsants. It has also been approved for the maintenance treatment of bipolar disorder (manic-depressive disorder). That means lamotrigine will help to delay the time to recurrence of mood episodes. Some patients with rapid-cycling bipolar disorder (four or more mood episodes in one year) have been treated with lamotrigine by itself.

Lexapro (escitalopram)

Escitalopram is a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (or "SSRI") that is used to treat Major Depressive disorder (also, Major Depression or MDD). In addition, escitalopram is effective, and FDA approved, for the treatment of Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD).

Lithium

Lithium carbonate is a salt that was first approved in the United States in 1970 to treat bipolar disorder. Today, it remains a commonly used medication for this illness.

Lunesta (eszopiclone)

Eszopiclone is a non-benzodiazepine sleep agent. Similar medications include Sonata and Ambien. Chronic use may result in tolerance and/or dependence.

Luvox (fluvoxamine)

Fluvoxamine is a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) antidepressant which is FDA approved for the treatment of obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD).

Paxil (paroxetine)

Paroxetine is an antidepressant medication. It is approved for the treatment of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD), Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD), social anxiety disorder (social phobia), panic disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder (PMDD).

Prolixin (fluphenazine)

Prolixin[®] is a phenothiazine antipsychotic agent that was developed in the 1960s. It is indicated for the treatment of schizophrenia and is useful for treating positive symptoms such as hallucinations, delusions, bizarre behavior and hostility.

Prozac (fluoxetine)

Fluoxetine is an antidepressant medication that is a member of the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) class of medicines. It is approved for the treatment of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD), Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), Panic Disorder, Bulimia Nervosa and Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder (PMDD).

Remeron (mirtazapine)

Mirtazapine is an antidepressant medication that is approved for the treatment of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD).

Risperdal (risperidone)

Risperidone is an antipsychotic medication approved to treat schizophrenia, and acute mania or mixed episodes of bipolar disorder. Risperidone can improve symptoms of schizophrenia such as: hallucinations, delusions, and disorganized thinking; in some people, improvement in social isolation, reduced speech productivity and motivation also occur. Risperidone can improve symptoms of mania which include: racing thoughts, having inflated self esteem or an elevated mood, impulsivity, irritability and decreased need for sleep.

Risperdal Consta

Risperdal Consta[®] (Risperidone Long Acting Injection) is a new injection ("shot") formulation of the atypical antipsychotic Risperdal[®]. Risperdal Consta[®] contains the same medication that is in the oral Risperdal[®] tablets and solution.

Ritalin (methylphenidate)

Methylphenidate and dextmethylphenidate are prescription medications that have been proven effective in the treatment of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children, adolescents and adults.

Rozerem (ramelteon)

Ramelteon is the first in its class of non-benzodiazepine and non-GABA sleep agents. It works on the melatonin receptors. Ramelteon is not associated with dependence and has shown no potential for abuse; nor is it associated with rebound insomnia when discontinued.

Seroquel (quetiapine)

Quetiapine is used to treat schizophrenia and acute manic episodes of bipolar disorder. It affects a wide range of neurotransmitters, including dopamine and serotonin. Quetiapine has been shown to be as effective as standard treatments for each illness. Quetiapine is effective for the treatment of both positive (e.g., delusions, thought disorder, and hallucinations) and negative (e.g., social withdrawal, lack of energy, apathy, and reduced ability to express emotion) symptoms of schizophrenia.

Sonata (zaleplon)

Zaleplon is an ultra-short acting non-benzodiazepine sleep agent. Similar medications include Lunesta and Ambien. Unlike Ambien and Lunesta, zaleplon may be used for up to five weeks without the risk of dependence or rebound insomnia upon discontinuation. However zaleplon still has a high potential for abuse due to its rapid action.

Strattera (atomoxetine)

Atomoxetine is a prescription medication that is used to treat children over 6 years old, adolescents, and adults with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). It is the first and so far, only, medicine FDA approved for ADHD that is not a stimulant.

Symbyax (olanzapine/fluoxetine)

Symbyax® is a combination antipsychotic (olanzapine) and antidepressant (fluoxetine) which is approved for bipolar depression and treatment resistant depression. Please see the description of these two medications for further details.

Tegretol (carbamazepine)

Carbamazepine is an anticonvulsant medication that is most commonly used to treat seizures in patients with epilepsy. Although epilepsy is the only FDA approved indication, carbamazepine is also used to treat bipolar disorder and several pain syndromes. Carbamazepine evens out the "highs"(mania) and "lows"(depression) in mood associated with bipolar disorder.

Topamax (Topiramate)

Topiramate is an anticonvulsant drug approved for the treatment of seizures (epilepsy) in adults and children. It can be used alone, or in combination with other anticonvulsants. It is also approved for use in preventing migraine headaches in adults. While not approved by the FDA for other illnesses, Topiramate is often used off-label to help control weight gain associated with other medications.

Trileptal (oxcarbazepine)

Oxcarbazepine is an anticonvulsant medication that is most commonly used to treat seizures in patients with epilepsy. Although epilepsy is the only FDA approved indication, oxcarbazepine is also used, and has been studied for treatment of bipolar disorder.

Vyvanse (lisdexamfetamine)

Lisdexamfetamine is the first in its class. It is a “pro-drug” meaning that it has no effect until it is taken and processed in the intestines and/or liver. It is then metabolized into d-amphetamine. Lisdexamfetamine is approved for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Wellbutrin; Zyban; Aplenzin (bupropion)

Bupropion is an antidepressant medication that is approved for the treatment of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD), Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) and to help people quit smoking (smoking cessation).

Xanax (alprazolam)

Alprazolam is an anti-anxiety agent that belongs to the class of medications called benzodiazepines (ben-zoe-dye-AZE-eh-peens). Similar medications include Valium® (diazepam), Ativan® (lorazepam), and Klonopin® (clonazepam). Alprazolam is approved to treat panic disorder (with or without agoraphobia), certain types of anxiety disorders (such as generalized anxiety disorder), and for short-term relief of anxiety symptoms.

Zoloft (sertraline)

Sertraline is an antidepressant medication that is approved for the treatment of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD), Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder (PMDD), as well as Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) in adults and children.

Zyprexa (olanzapine)

Olanzapine is an antipsychotic medication approved to treat schizophrenia, and acute mania or mixed episodes of bipolar disorder. Olanzapine can improve symptoms of schizophrenia such as: hallucinations, delusions, and disorganized thinking; in some people, improvement in social isolation, reduced speech productivity and motivation. Olanzapine can improve symptoms of mania which include: racing thoughts, having an inflated sense of importance, an elevated mood, being impulsive, being irritable as well as a decreased need for sleep. Olanzapine has also been approved for the treatment of agitation associated with schizophrenia or bipolar I mania.