



# Psychopharmacology TIDBITS

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**-TB- Tablet-Splitting.** Tablet-splitting is an easy way to reduce drug costs without compromising efficacy. In a recent study published in the *American Journal of Managed Care* (2002 Aug; 8(8):706-12), researchers determined that 11 medications commonly used by physicians in the Massachusetts health plan could be split safely and effectively with cost savings ranging from 23 to 50%. Psychiatric medications included in the list are: clonazepam, Zyprexa, Celexa, Paxil, Serzone, and Zoloft.

The greatest potential for savings can be seen with the SSRIs with savings close to 50%.

| Generic       | Brand                     | Dose              | Cost/Month  |
|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Amitriptyline | ELAVIL                    | 150mg QHS         | \$6         |
| Doxepin       | SINEQUAN                  | 150mg QHS         | \$11        |
| Citalopram    | CELEXA                    | 20mg QD           | \$67        |
|               |                           | <b>½ 40mg QD</b>  | <b>\$35</b> |
| Sertraline    | ZOLOFT                    | 50mg QD           | \$75        |
|               |                           | <b>½ 100mg QD</b> | <b>\$37</b> |
| Paroxetine    | PAXIL                     | 20mg QD           | \$81        |
|               |                           | <b>½ 40mg QD</b>  | <b>\$44</b> |
| Mirtazapine   | REMERON                   | 15mg QHS          | \$83        |
|               |                           | <b>½ 30mg QHS</b> | <b>\$43</b> |
|               | REMERON SOLTABS           | 15mg QHS          | \$72        |
| Venlafaxine   | EFFEXOR XR                | 150mg QD          | \$83        |
| Nefazodone    | SERZONE                   | 150mg BID         | \$89        |
| Fluoxetine    | PROZAC                    | 20mg QD           | \$93        |
|               | <b>GENERIC FLUOXETINE</b> | <b>20mg QD</b>    | <b>\$10</b> |
| Bupropion     | WELLBUTRIN SR             | 150mg BID         | \$106       |

According to OMAP data, the following savings can be seen:

| CURRENT DOSE   | ½ TAB EQUIVALENT  | SAVINGS/YEAR/<br><b>1</b> PATIENT | SAVINGS/YEAR/<br><b>10</b> PATIENTS | SAVING/YEAR/<br><b>100</b> PATIENTS |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Celexa 20mg qd | ½ Celexa 40mg qd  | \$825.57                          | \$8,255.70                          | <b>\$82,557.00</b>                  |
| Paxil 20mg qd  | ½ Paxil 40mg qd   | \$888.70                          | \$8,887.00                          | <b>\$88,870.00</b>                  |
| Zoloft 50mg qd | ½ Zoloft 100mg qd | \$1,545.08                        | \$15,450.80                         | <b>\$154,508.00</b>                 |