

# Serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRI) Dosing for Patients Over 65 Years of Age

Medication	Range	Starting Dose	Highest Dose	Dosing Increase	Renal Dosing	Hepatic Dosing	Cardiac
Effexor (Qam)	37.5 - 225 mg	37.5 mg	225 mg	37.5 mg	Lower dose by 25-50%; take after dialysis	Lower dose by 50%	Use with caution HTN should be controlled prior to starting and monitored regularly; contraindicated in patients with heart disease
Pristiq (Qam)	25 - 100 mg	25 mg	100 mg	25 mg	Moderate impairment 50 mg/day; severe 50 mg every other day; take after dialysis	Do not dose over 100 mg/day	Use with caution HTN should be controlled prior to starting and monitored regularly
Cymbalta (Qhs or BID)	20 -120 mg	20mg	120 mg	20 mg	Dose adjustment not needed for mild/mod dz; not recommended for severe dz/dialysis	Do not give with hepatic insufficiency or with substantial alcohol use	Use with caution in cardiac patients; may increase blood pressure
Fetzima (Qam)	20 -120 mg	20mg	120 mg	20 mg	Max dose 80 mg for moderate and 40 mg for severe impairment	Same dosing	Cardiac effects not systematically evaluated; use with caution

## Side Effects of SNRI Medications

Risks and side effects similar to SSRIs (serotonin receptors are the mediators of most of the side effects). Effexor and Pristiq can cause elevated blood pressure. Lower doses may be tolerated better for all SNRIs; starting dose for elderly may be similar to hepatic/renal dosing

## Notes:

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