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Cymbalta DELATED RELEASE CAPSULES
duloxetine HCl

Prescribing Information | Medication Guide

Cymbalta is indicated for the acute and maintenance treatment of major depressive disorder (MDD) and the acute treatment of generalized anxiety disorder (GAD).

Patients with depression may have residual symptoms

Impact of Cymbalta across a broad range of depression symptoms

Important Safety Information About Cymbalta

Warning: Suicidality and Antidepressant Drugs—Antidepressants increased the risk compared to placebo of suicidal thinking and behavior (suicidality) in children, adolescents, and young

From Medscape Nurses > Legal and Professional Issues for Nurses

How Many Patients Can a Nurse Practitioner See in a Day?

Carolyn Buppert, NP, JD

Authors and Disclosures

Posted: 09/22/2010

Nurse Rating: ★★★★★ (11 Votes)

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Question

Is there a limit on the number of patients a nurse practitioner can see in a primary care setting in an 8-hour work day?



Response from Carolyn Buppert, NP, JD
Attorney, Law Office of Carolyn Buppert, PC, Bethesda, Maryland

Three issues must be addressed:

- How many patients can a nurse practitioner (NP) see safely?
- How many patients is it logistically possible to see in 8 hours, given the practice's physical plant and operational set-up, the patient acuity, the ability of the patients to communicate, and the ability of patients to move on their own?
- How many patients does an NP need to see to keep the practice financially sound?

Only the NP and his or her supervisor can determine the answer to the first 2 questions. I can answer the third question. Generally, an NP needs to see 20 patients a day to generate enough money to make a practice profitable. However, that number depends on the fee schedule, the NP's salary and benefits, the practice's overhead expenses, and the practice's expectation of profit. The math goes like this:

- 20 patients x 5 days/week x 47 weeks per year = 4700 patients per year.
- If the average charge per patient is \$45, \$45 x 4700 = \$211,500 generated per year.
- If the NP's salary and benefits = \$100,000 (\$80,000 plus \$20,000 for employer taxes and benefits) and overhead expenses = \$80,000 (rent on space, electronic medical record, assistants, telephone, supplies, equipment, electricity, malpractice insurance, etc.), then profit is \$31,500.

Some practices will be happy with \$31,500 in profit, and some will want more. However, 20 patients per 8-hour work day is considered to be a reasonable expectation for primary care.

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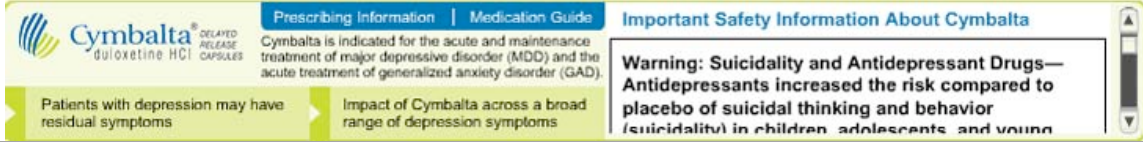
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