

PE1651/QQ

Dawn Perry submission of 7 January 2018

I have been prescribed psychiatric medications since 2009. This has included Citalopram, Prozac, Lofepramine and most recently, Venlafaxine - extended release formula - (150mg and 75mg capsule together)

The most recent medication, since December 2016 is Venlafaxine dosage 225mg daily and 25mg Amitriptyline once at bedtime due to insomnia.

Since being prescribed these medications I have not been advised about withdrawal symptoms. I have tried tapering off the medication Lofepramine 75mg from July 2016 and December 2016 and was not able to as the suicidal feeling was unbearable. I was since advised to try Venlafaxine and have been researching the medication from other patients and told this is very difficult to withdraw from.

My concern is that I would want to reduce off the medication for when I try to conceive and have not been warned of the withdrawal symptoms. I have side effects from Venlafaxine which include involuntary jerking movements when going into sleep and during sleep, regular headaches, depressive mood and agitation. It has affected my long term ability to work and relationships with people.

I do not feel fully informed from medical professionals I have seen, consulting about my health. I am also scared about any long term use of this medication and future withdrawal symptoms.