Depression is an ongoing condition. You have to help your doctor make decisions about your care.

The Steps to Treating Depression

The First Visit

Your Mental Health Professional will ask you questions and may ask you to fill out a questionnaire. If your Mental Health Professional has diagnosed you as having depression, he/she will talk to you about:

- How serious it is.
- The different choices for treatment.
- Developing an initial treatment plan that may include:
 - 1) Waiting a few weeks to see if symptoms get better
 - 2) Taking antidepressant medication
 - 3) Counseling

Follow-Up Visits

You should have a follow-up appointment and/or telephone call once every 1-2 weeks to see if you are feeling better, the same, or worse.

- Your Mental Health Professional will ask you about your daily life at work, at home, and with family and friends. This may include asking you to fill out a questionnaire.
- If you've chosen to take antidepressant medication, or both medication and counseling, your Mental Health Professional will check to make sure the medication is working and to see if there are any medication side effects. Do not stop taking your medicine without talking to your Mental Health Professional. Your depression could come back or your medication could cause side effects.
- If you've *chosen counseling,* and your symptoms are getting worse or are the same, you may need another type of treatment.
- If your depression is affecting your physical health, your Mental Health Professional will ask for permission to speak with your PCP so that they can work together to help you.

Scheduling Periodic Check-Up Visits

Depression needs check-ups just like hypertension, diabetes, or heart disease. Your Mental Health Professional will use a check-up schedule that is right for you.

Life Choices

Healthy life choices can help prevent depression from coming back. These choices include: staying away from alcohol and non-prescription drugs; exercising regularly; using yoga/meditation or other relaxation techniques; getting at least 7-9 hours of sleep every night; and eating a balanced diet.

憂鬱症是一種持續的疾病。您必須協助您的醫師爲您的治療與照護做出最 佳決定。

治療憂鬱症的步驟

初次就診

您的精神健康醫務人員將會問您一些問題,還可能要您填寫一份問卷調查。如果您的精神健康醫務人員診斷您患有憂鬱症,他/她將會與您討論以下內容:

- 病情有多嚴重。
- 有哪些不同的治療方法。
- 制定初步治療計劃,應該包括以下內容:
 - 1) 等待幾個星期,看看症狀有無好轉
 - 2) 服用抗憂鬱症藥物
 - 3) 心理諮詢

後續就診

您每1到2個星期應有一次後續就診及/或電話聯繫,以便看看您的病情是 否有好轉、是否維持原狀、或是加重了。

- 您的精神健康醫務人員將會問您在工作,在家裏與家人或朋友交往的 日常生活情況。這可能還需要您填寫一份問卷調查。
- 如果您選擇了抗憂鬱藥物、或抗憂鬱藥物兼心理諮詢組合,您的精神健康醫務人員將會檢查藥物,確保藥物有效,並瞭解藥物是否有任何副作用。在沒有和您的精神健康醫務人員討論之前,不要停止服用藥物。您的憂鬱症可能復發或藥物可能引起副作用。
- 如果您選擇了心理諮詢,且您的症狀加重了或維持原狀,您可能需要另一種治療。
- 如果您的憂鬱症影響到您的身體健康,您的精神健康醫務人員將會要求您允許他/她和您的初級保健醫生交談,以便他們能夠一起爲您治療。

約定定期檢查就診

憂鬱症像高血壓、糖尿病或心臟病一樣,需要定期檢查。您的精神健康醫 務人員將會安排一個最適合您的檢查時間表。

生活方式選擇

健康的生活方式選擇能夠預防憂鬱症復發。這些選擇包括:不喝酒、不服 用非處方藥物、經常運動、做瑜珈、打坐或其他放鬆技術、每晚至少睡眠 7至9個小時、飲食均衡等。 欲知關於憂鬱症的更多資訊,請撥打電話:

National Alliance on Mental Illness www.nami.org/index.html

載有憂鬱症和其他精神疾病資訊;有關憂鬱症的州和聯邦法律、期刊論文和資料表等。並附患者教育資源索引。

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance

www.dbsalliance.org

載有關於不同類型的憂鬱症,青春期憂鬱症,患者治療成功事例以及臨床試驗等資訊。提供當地分會、教育計畫、最新發佈的藥物和治療方法以及活動日程的詳細情況等。

Mental Health America

www.nmha.org

或致電: 1-800-969-6642

載有鑑別憂鬱症、症狀、常見問題、治療類型、婦女憂鬱症問題、老年憂鬱症以及活動日程表等的資訊和資

源。

National Institute of Mental Health

www.nimh.nih.gov

或致電: 1-866-615-6464

National Foundation for Depressive Illness

www.depression.org

或致電: 1-800-239-1265

NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene www.nyc.gov/health 載有一份「活動日程表」,其中有一節關於精神健康、酒精中毒和化學品依賴性的內容。並附有關輔導小組

載有一份「活動日程表」,其中有一節關於精神健康、酒精中毒和化學品依賴性的內容。並附有關輔導小組 方面的資訊。

LIFENET Hotline

紐約市的保密危機干預、轉診介紹和資訊服務,每週7天,每天24小時提供服務。

英語: 1-800-LIFENET (1-800-543-3638)

西班牙語: 1-877-AYUDESE (1-877-298-3373) 中文: ASIAN LIFENET (1-877-990-8585) 其他語言: 1-800-LIFENET (1-800-543-3638)

TTY(聽力障礙者): 1-212-982-5284

本刊所載內容不應取代您的醫生所提供的醫療和建議。根據您的個人情況,醫生可能會建議採取不同的治療方法。

來源:麥克阿瑟基金會憂鬱症和初級保健倡議。

MetroPlus Health Plan 160 Water St. 3rd Fl, New York, NY 10038 會員資訊:

1-800-303-9626

欲獲得關於 MetroPlus Health Plan 的資訊,請致電:

1-800-475-METRO

www.MetroPlus.org

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MANAGING DEPRESSION

管理憂鬱症





