

## REFERENCE GUIDE TO PRESCRIBING CHOLINESTERASE INHIBITORS

	STARTING DOSE	TITRATION AS TOLERATED	EFFECTIVE RANGE	MAXIMUM DAILY DOSE
<input type="checkbox"/> DONEPEZIL	5 mg daily (2.5 if frail) for 4 to 6 weeks	increase by 5 mg	5 to 10 mg daily	10 mg
<input type="checkbox"/> GALANTAMINE	8 mg ER daily for 4 to 6 weeks	increase by 8 mg	16 to 24 mg daily	24 mg
<input type="checkbox"/> RIVASTIGMINE (divided dose)	1.5 mg twice daily for 2 to 4 weeks	increase by 1.5 to 3 mg twice daily	6 to 12 mg daily	12 mg (6 mg twice daily)

### RELATIVE CONTRAINDICATIONS

- severe hepatic or renal disease
- significant bradycardia or AV block
- significant bronchospastic disease
- obstructive urinary disease
- active peptic ulcer disease
- seizure disorder

### SIDE EFFECTS

- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- anorexia with weight loss
- sleep disturbances (donepezil)
- muscle/leg cramps
- syncope, dizziness

### GUIDELINES FOR SWITCHING

1. Poor tolerability/side effects
  - not amenable to dosage reduction
  - or slowing titration
2. Lack of efficacy with first drug trial

### CURRENT DRUG TO BE DISCONTINUED DUE TO POOR TOLERABILITY

STOP	DONEPEZIL	GALANTAMINE	RIVASTIGMINE
WAIT	5-7 days	2 days	2 days
START	galantamine or rivastigmine	donepezil or rivastigmine	galantamine or donepezil
Dose/titration of new drug	AS FOR NEW START (see above)		

### CURRENT DRUG TO BE TAPERED OFF DUE TO LACK OF EFFICACY (mg daily)

	Current Dose	End of Week 1	End of Week 2	Maximum Dose**
Donepezil	10	5	0	n/a
	5	2.5		
	2.5	0		
Galantamine	24	16	0	n/a
	16	8		
	8	0		
Rivastigmine (>1.5mg daily, split into twice daily dosing if possible)	12	6	0	n/a
	9	4.5		
	6	3		
	3	1.5		

### NEW DRUG TO BE ADDED WHILE CURRENT DRUG TAPERED (mg daily)

	Current Dose	End of Week 1	End of Week 2	Maximum Dose**
Donepezil <b>OR</b>	-	5 (2.5 if frail)	5	10
Galantamine <b>OR</b>	-	8	16	24
Rivastigmine	-	1.5 to 3 twice daily	6 to 12	12 (6 twice daily)

\*\*Titrate to maximum dose if tolerated and clinically indicated.