

# Medication Guides: Top-Line Feedback from Patients Taking Antidepressants



Presented by:  
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# About iGuard.org

- Medication Safety Checks for drug and disease interactions
- Personalized Drug Safety Alerts as new information arises
- Bi-monthly printable medication record
- Access to information through iGuard.org on-line Patient Drug Reviews

# Study Rationale

- Consumer medication information leaflets have been studied extensively
- Medication Guides (MG) are one of the newest mechanisms for delivery of medication safety information – and appear to be increasing in prevalence post-REMS
- iGuard.org initiated a survey of patients taking antidepressants to obtain feedback on Medication Guides
- This presentation summarizes top-line findings; a more complete analysis will be submitted to the docket

# Methods

- Web-based survey to patients taking an SSRI, SNRI or Wellbutrin
  - 50 respondents 18 to 64 years of age
  - 50 respondents 65 years and older
- Survey collected data on:
  - Frequency that patients receive and read the antidepressant MG
  - Difficulty of information in the antidepressant MG
  - Preferences for MG delivery (method and frequency)
  - How often patients discuss suicidality (primary focus of MG) with their physician and pharmacist
- Patients were offered an honorarium of \$10 for their time
- iGuard.org received an IRB waiver from Independent Review Consulting, Inc (IRC) for this study

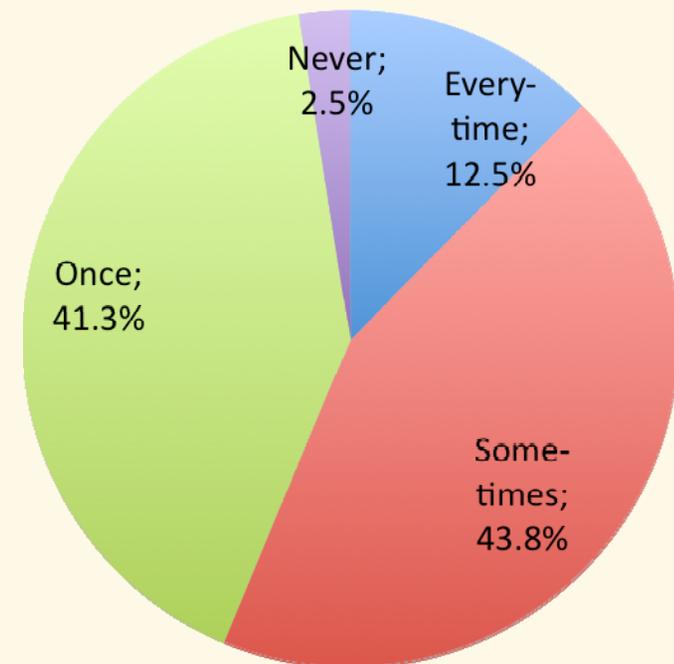
# Respondent Demographics

| (n = 100)                           |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Female:                             | 69%  |
| Mean age:                           | 59 years   |
| Years of school:                    | 25% High school or lower<br>42% Some college<br>32% College graduate                     |
| Ethnicity:                          | 91% Non-hispanic/latino<br>2% Hispanic/latino<br>7% Do not know / do not wish to provide |
| Race:                               | 93% White<br>4% Non-white<br>3% Do not know / do not wish to provide                     |
| Work Status:                        | 32% Working<br>66% Not working<br>2% Do not wish to provide                              |
| Antidepressant Use 2 or more years: | 74%  |

# Frequency of Receipt and Reading

- Two-thirds of study respondents receive a MG with each antidepressant prescription fill
- Of patients who have received a MG for their antidepressant, 97.5% have read the MG one or more times
- Less than 20% of patients find the MG difficult, very difficult or extremely difficult to understand

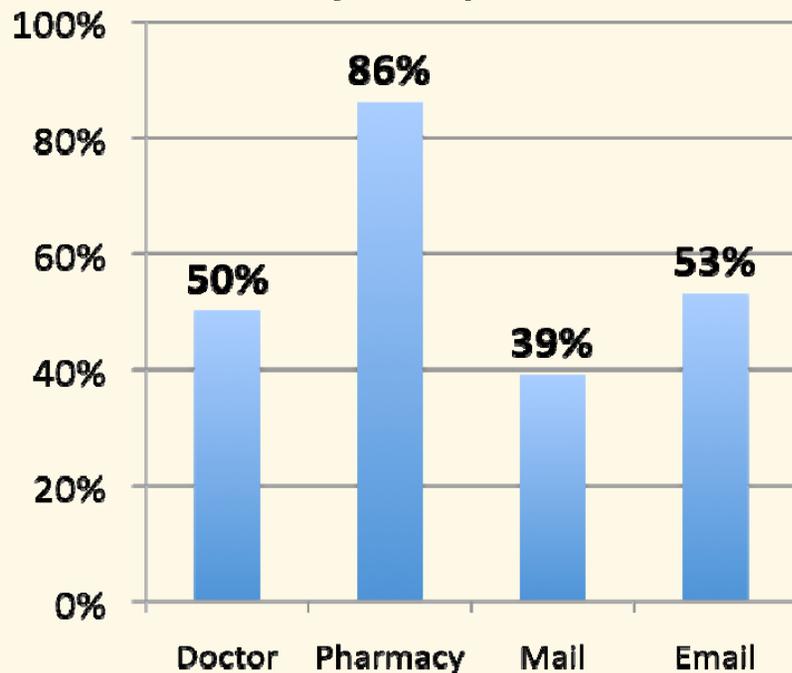
**Frequency that Respondents Read the Antidepressant MG (n=80)**



*If you have received a Medication Guide with your antidepressant prescription, how often do you read it?*

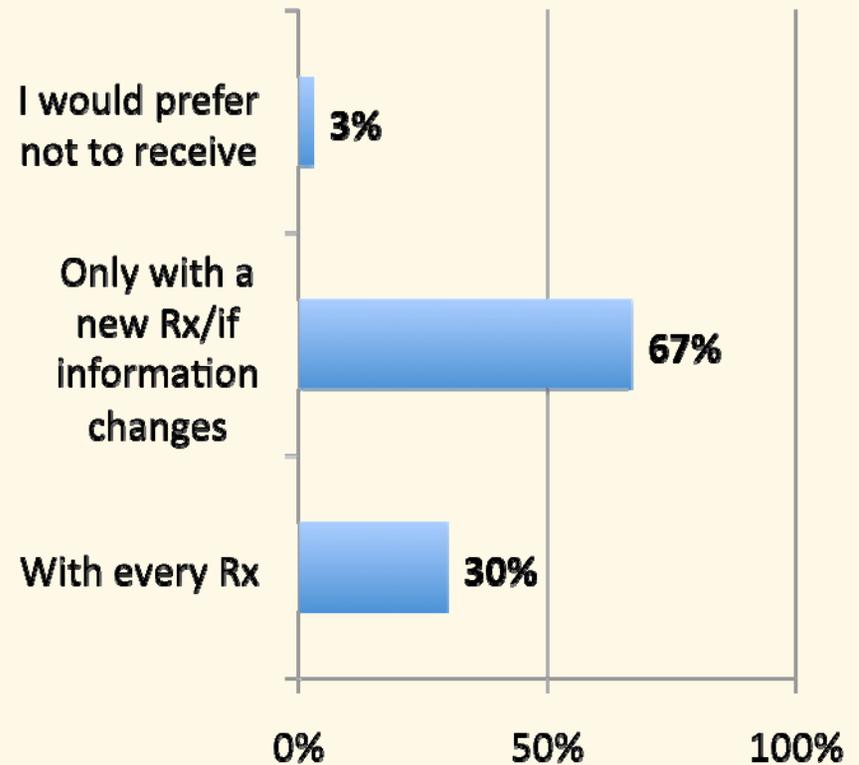
# Delivery Method & Frequency

**Preferred Method of Delivery  
(n=100)**



*If you were to receive a new prescription with a medication guide, would you like to receive a copy from...*

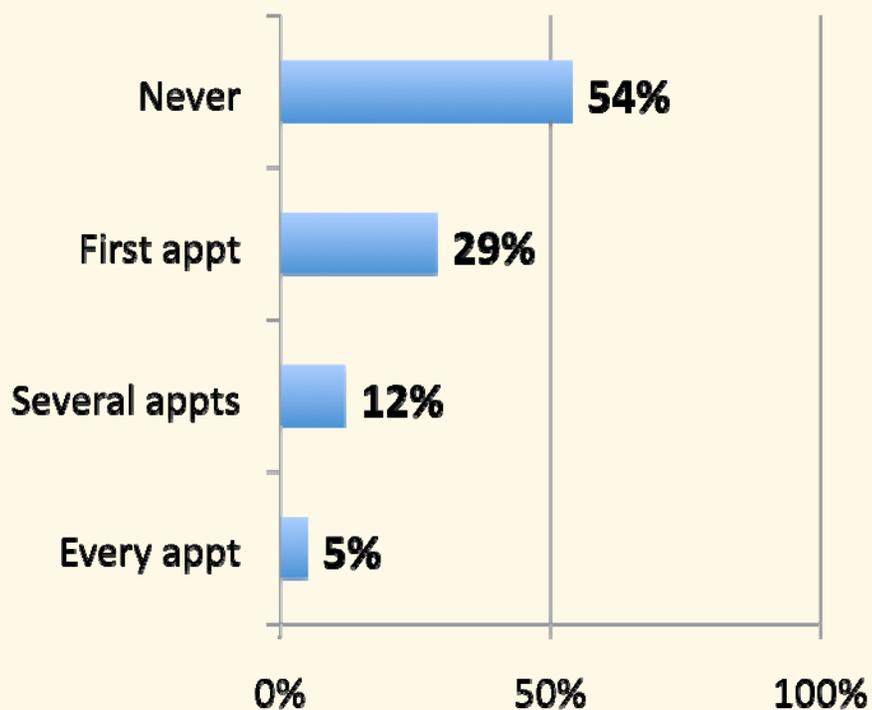
**Frequency of Delivery (n=100)**



*How often would you prefer to receive a Medication Guide for your antidepressant?*

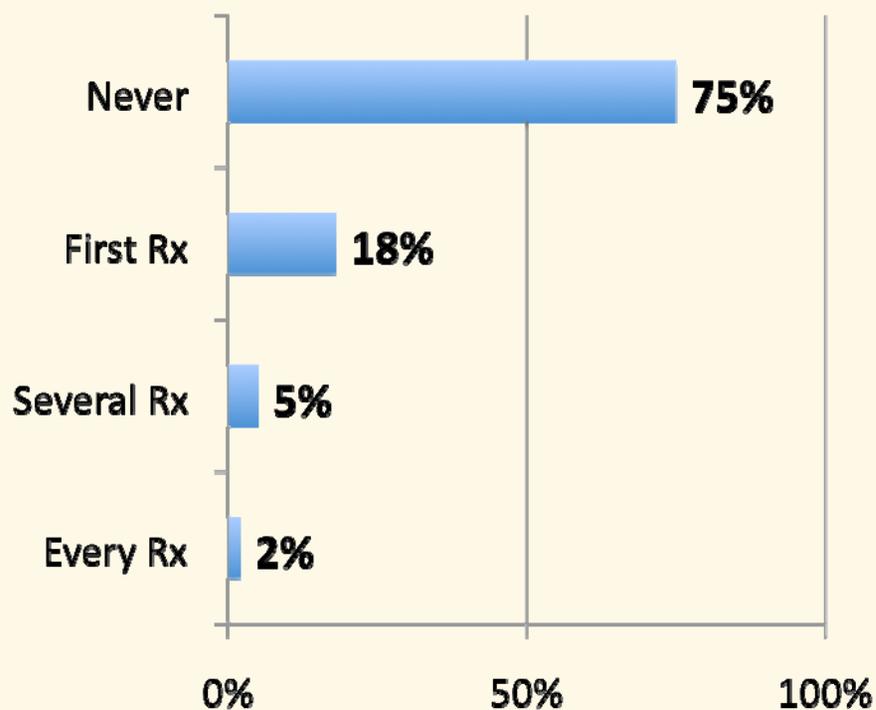
# Discussion of MG Information with a HCP

**Discussion of Risk of Suicidal Thoughts/Actions with Physician (n=100)**



*How often have you and your physician discussed the potential risk of suicidal thoughts or actions associated with your antidepressant?*

**Discussion of Risk of Suicidal Thoughts/Actions with Pharmacist (n=100)**



*How often have you and your pharmacist discussed the potential risk of suicidal thoughts or actions associated with your antidepressant?*

# Conclusion

- Patients are receiving and reading the Medication Guide for antidepressants
  - Although patients were provided with a sample of the Medication Guide for antidepressants with the survey, it is unclear whether they recognize the MG or if they are able to differentiate between the Medication Guide and a Consumer Medication Information Leaflet
- Most patients wish to receive the MG from their pharmacy, but only with new prescriptions and when there are updates
- There is limited health care professional support of the Medication Guide program – most doctors and pharmacists are not discussing the risk of suicidality with patients taking antidepressants