

PE1651/PPPPPP

Anonymous submission of 15 February 2018

I am currently 54 years old/male.

I was prescribed Venlafaxine, amongst other antidepressant medication, during a period ranging from 1996 through to 2008. I tried to stop taking the medication on multiple occasions but was unable to discontinue due to increased problems which I now know to be withdrawal symptoms. At the time, though, my doctor misdiagnosed the problems as depression symptoms and prescribed a continuation of medication. I eventually managed to stop taking the Venlafaxine in 2008 and suffered a protracted withdrawal which resulted in 5 years off work without income due to a wide range of symptoms which I have still not recovered from completely.

The symptoms included: brain zaps, muscle and joint pains, blurred vision, tiredness, inability to concentrate, severely degraded cognition, poor memory, inability to read, inability to learn, intolerance of most foods and drinks, hyperglycaemia, high anxiety, fear, insomnia, low libido, skin problems, psoriasis, sore tendons, depersonalisation, derealisation, lack of coordination, , weight gain, intolerance to heat and cold, low basal body temperature, lack of coordination. I was also misdiagnosed as a type 1 diabetic and prescribed unnecessary insulin treatment for 6 years until 2011.

I am slowly but gradually recovering but the interruption to my life has been devastating physically, emotionally and financially.