OBJECTIVES: To estimate the impact of duloxetine reimbursement in major depressive disorder (MDD) treatment on public payer’s budget in Poland.

METHODS: The analysis was performed in 5-year time horizon from the public payer (National Health Fund, NFZ) perspective. Only costs of medicines were included. On the base of sales data for years 2004-2008 linear regression was conducted to predict consumption of antidepressants in Poland. Cost data of medicines were obtained from Ministry of Health and other sources in case of lack of reimbursement. Duloxetine market share and alternative medicines replacement was estimated on the base of antidepressants sale data from European countries. One-way sensitivity analysis were performed for the key input parameters.

RESULTS: Assuming that duloxetine is not reimbursed the expenditure on all antidepressants from NHF perspective will be 138.83 mPLN in year 2010 and 171.37 mPLN in year 2014. In case of reimbursement of duloxetine the expenditures will increase by 0.07 mPLN in year 2010 and by 8.82 mPLN in year 2014.

CONCLUSION: Our findings suggest that decision concerning reimbursement of duloxetine should not lead to important increase of total expenditures on the MDD treatment from on public payer’s perspective.