

MEDICATION SIDE EFFECTS/INSTRUCTION GUIDE

This guide is not all-inclusive as new drugs are available on the market frequently and drugs are sometimes discontinued. **ALWAYS** consult a current drug reference and/or pharmacist for additional information.

COMMON SIDE EFFECTS CODES

1. Slows heart rate	13. Insomnia	22. Dizziness	34. Decreased motility
2. Increased heart rate	14. Swelling and/or increased weight	23. Skin rash/itching	35. Ringing in ears or ototoxicity
3. Constipation	15. Nausea/vomiting	24. Fever	36. Thrush
4. Diarrhea	16. Increased sensitivity to light or vision changes	25. Bleeding tendency	37. Cardiac disturbance
5. Drowsiness	17. Slows breathing	26. Hypoglycemia	38. Thrombocytopenia
6. Dry mouth/thirst	18. Difficulty passing urine	27. Thickening bronchial secretions	39. Depression
7. GI distress	19. Hypotension/orthostatic hypotension	28. Nasal stuffiness	40. Myopathy
8. Abdominal pain/cramps	20. Increased blood pressure	29. Decreased hematocrit	41. Blurred vision
9. Confusion	21. Headache	30. Fluid electrolyte imbalance	42. Cough
10. Euphoria		31. Decreased potassium	43. Renal failure
11. Tremors, shaking		32. Anorexia	44. Increase INR/aPTT
12. Nervousness			

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND INSTRUCTION CODES

- Follow physician instruction and prescription literature for each medication
- Report occurrence of side effects
- Inform physician of OTC (Over-The-Counter) medications and supplements
- Contact physician or pharmacist with questions
- Consult drug reference for **BLACK BOX WARNING** for any medication

A. Take with food or milk	I. Finish all medication/take as directed	O. Report sore throat, bruising, joint pain, bleeding (possible blood dyscrasia)	T. Do not stop medication abruptly
B. Take on empty stomach	J. Do not exceed recommended daily dose	P. Report sore throat, fever, fatigue (could be superinfection)	U. Avoid OTC products
C. Avoid aspirin	K. Caution driving/avoid hazardous activities	Q. Check pulse. Report as indicated	V. May contribute to fall risk
D. May discolor urine/stool	L. Bleeding precautions/report bleeding	R. Change positions slowly	W. Drug-Drug interactions (see current drug reference)
E. Avoid antacids and milk within 2 hours of dose	M. Avoid sun exposure	S. Quit smoking/avoid smoking exposure	
F. Do not crush or chew	N. Report flu-like symptoms (fever, ache, sore throat)		
G. Take with lots of water			
H. Avoid alcohol while on medication, including medications with alcohol			

Categories	Classification	Examples – Common Generic/Trade Name	Common Side Effects	General Instructions
Antifungals	Antifungals	nystatin, amphotericin B, clotrimazole, ketoconazole, fluconazole (Diflucan), miconazole	8, 15, 18, 21, 23, 24, 31, 32, 35	I, W
	Trichomonacide	metronidazole (Flagyl)	6, 16	D, H, I, P
	Antituberculars	isoniazid, rifampin, ethambutol	15, 23, 32	H, I, N BLACK BOX WARNING
Anti-infectives	Aminoglycosides	gentamicin, streptomycin, tobramycin, kanamycin, neomycin	4, 7, 15	I, O, W BLACK BOX WARNING
	Nitrofurans	nitrofurantoin (Macrobid, Macrochantin)	5, 8, 9, 15, 22, 32	A, W
	Penicillins	amoxicillin, ampicillin, cloxacillin, dicloxacillin, nafcillin, oxacillin, penicillin G, penicillin V, penicillin VK, piperacillin (Zosyn)	4, 7, 15, 44	I, W BLACK BOX WARNING
	Cephalosporins	cefactor (Ceclor), cefadroxil (Duricef), cefazolin (Ancef), cefoperazone (Cefobid), cephalothin (Keflin), cephalexin (Keflex), cefiderocol (Fetroja), cephradine (Velocef)	4, 7, 15, 44	I, W, P BLACK BOX WARNING
	Erythromycins	erythromycin	4, 7, 15	A, G, I, P BLACK BOX WARNING

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Anti-infectives (cont'd.)	Tetracyclines	demeclocycline, doxycycline, minocycline, tetracycline	4, 7, 15, 44	E, G, I, M, W
	Sulfonamides	trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (Bactrim, Septra)	7, 16	G, I, M, O, U (aspirin, Vitamin C)
	Quinolones	ciprofloxacin (Cipro), levofloxacin (Levaquin) ofloxacin (Floxin)	4, 7, 15, 44	G, I, R; Avoid iron or mineral supplements within 2 hours of dose (before and after). BLACK BOX WARNING
	Antivirals	acyclovir, ganciclovir, amantadine, remdesivir	4, 15, 21, 44	I, O, P; Stress control not cures.
	Antibacterials	vancomycin	15, 35	I, P
	Antiretrovirals	Atripla, Combivir, Complera, Epizocom, Trizivir, Truvada, Emtriva, Biktarvy, Rukobia	4, 8, 15, 22, 40	W; BLACK BOX WARNING on all; Some need to be taken on empty stomach.
Cardiovascular drugs	Cardiac glycosides	digoxin (Lanoxin)	7, 16, 19, 21, 37	K, Q
	Antiarrhythmics	propranolol, lidocaine, sotalol, procainamide, quinidine, verapamil	1, 2, 15, 17, 21	I; Report 1, 9, 22, 24 BLACK BOX WARNING
	Antianginals	Nitrates: isosorbide, nitroglycerin, Calcium channel blockers: amlodipine, diltiazem, verapamil Beta blockers: atenolol, metoprolol	14, 15, 19, 21, 22	B, H, Q, R BLACK BOX WARNING
	Antihypertensives	ACE inhibitors: captopril, enalapril, lisinopril; Angiotensin II receptor blockers: losartan, valsartan; Beta blockers: atenolol, carvedilol, metoprolol, propranolol; Calcium channel blockers: amlodipine, diltiazem, verapamil; Centrally acting alpha blockers: clonidine, methyl dopa, cardura; Direct renin inhibitor: aliskeren; Peripherally acting alpha blockers: doxazosin, prazosin, terazosin; Vasodilators: hydralazine, nitroglycerin	3, 5, 15, 19, 21, 22, 23, 39	I, T, V BLACK BOX WARNING
	Antilipemics	atorvastatin, simvastatin, gemfibrozil, fenofibrate, pravastatin (Lipitor), icosapent (Vascepa), lovastatin, bempedoic acid (Nexletol)	3, 7, 21, 23	Report 7, 16, 21, 40; W
Central nervous system (CNS) drugs	Nonnarcotic analgesics and antipyretics	acetaminophen, ibuprofen (Advil)	7, 23	J, I
	Salicylates	aspirin	7, 35	A, H, G
	Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID)	celecoxib (Celebrex), naproxen, ibuprofen, indomethacin, sulindac, meloxicam (Mobic)	5, 7, 14, 15, 22, 32	A, C, G, K; Report 16 & 35. BLACK BOX WARNING
	Narcotic and opioid analgesics	oxycontin, oxycodone (Percocet), fentanyl (Duragesic), hydromorphone (Dilaudid), codeine, oxymorphone (Numorphan), morphine, meperidine (Demerol), methadone, tramadol (Ultram)	3, 5, 7, 15, 27, 32	H, K, T, W BLACK BOX WARNING
	Sedatives/ Hypnotics	triazolam (Halcion), zolpidem (Ambien), quazepam (Doral), eszopiclone (Lunesta), estazolam (Prosom), temazepam (Restoril), zaleplon (Sonata), suvorexant (Belsomra), lemborexant (Dayvigo)	5, 15, 19	A, H, K, R, T, U, V, W BLACK BOX WARNING

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Central nervous system (CNS) drugs (cont'd.)	Barbiturates	phenobarbital (Luminal), secobarbital, pentobarbital (Nembutal)	5, 15	H, K, T, V
	Anticonvulsants	phenytoin (Dilantin), clonazepam (Klonopin), valproic acid, carbamazepine, levetiracetan (Keppra), gabapentin (Neurotin), zonisamide (Zonegran), cannabidiol (Epidiolex), tiagabine (Gabitril), cenobamate (Xcopri)	3, 4, 15	A, F, H, K, W; Carry identification; Interferes with tube feedings. BLACK BOX WARNING
	Antidepressants	Tricyclics: amitriptyline (Elavil), doxepin (Sinequan), imipramine, (Tofranil); MAOI: fluoxetine (Prozac), paroxetine (Paxil), nortriptyline (Aventyl, Pamelor), trazadone, desipramine (Norpramin, Pertofrane), trimipramine (Surmontil), escitalopram (Lexapro), citalopram (Celexa), vortioxetine (Trintellix)	3, 4, 5, 6, 18, 22, 23, 41	H, K, T, V, W BLACK BOX WARNING
	Antianxiety agents	diazepam (Valium), alprazolam (Xanax), lorazepam (Ativan), estazolam, oxazepam (Serax), lorazepam	16, 19, 22	H, K, V, W BLACK BOX WARNING
	Antipsychotics	chlorpromazine, haloperidol (Haldol), aripiprazole (Abilify), clozapine (Clozaril), amitriptyline (Etrafon, Triavil), ziprasidone (Geodon), loxapine (Loxitane), molindone (Moban), pimozide (Orap), risperidone (Risperdal), mesoridazine (Serentil), quetiapine (Seroquel), perphenazine (Trilafon), olanzapine (Zyprexa), lurasidone (Latuda)	5, 6, 11, 16	A, H, K, V, W BLACK BOX WARNING
	Antiparkinsonian agents	benztropine (Cogentin), levodopa, amantadine, levodopa-carbidopa (Sinemet), selegiline, opicapone (Ongentys)	6, 9, 13, 15, 18, 19, 21, 23, 40, 41	B, R, T, W; Report twitching, eye spasm. BLACK BOX WARNING
Autonomic nervous system drugs	Anticholinergics	atropine, hyoscyamine (Anaspaz), propantheline, scopolamine	3, 6, 18, 21, 22	G, K, U
	Cholinergics	neostigmine, physostigmine	4, 15	Controls not cures. Wear alert for myasthenia gravis.
	Cholinergic blockers	atropine, scopolamine	3, 6, 18, 21, 22	K, H; Caution during hot weather.
	Alpha-adrenergics	phentoalamine, phenoxybenzamine	2, 4, 15, 19, 28	H, R, U
	Beta-adrenergic blockers	atenolol (Tenormin), metoprolol (Lopresor), nadolol (Corgard), propranolol (Inderal)	1, 4, 15, 19	Q, R, T BLACK BOX WARNING
	Beta-1 adrenergic agonist	dobutamine	2, 20, 21	Report dyspnea & headache.
	Neuromuscular blockers	succinylcholine	30	Evaluate therapeutic response.
Respiratory tract drugs	Antihistamines	diphenhydramine (Benadryl), fexofenadine (Allegra), loratadine (Claritin), pseudoephedrine, cetirizine (Zyrtec)	2, 5, 9, 19, 21, 27	H, K; Discontinue few days before skin testing. BLACK BOX WARNING

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Respiratory tract drugs (cont'd.)	Bronchodilators	albuterol (Proventil), aminophylline, ephedrine, ipratropium (Atrovent), salmeterol (Serevent), terbutaline, theophylline, albuterol & ipratropium (Combivent)	6, 7, 11, 12, 15	S, U; Teach use and care of inhaler.
	Antitussives, Expectorants	dextromethorphan (Benlyn DM), Robitussin), guaifenesin (Robitussin, Mucinex, Geri-Tussin), homatropine	5, 15, 22	K
Gastrointestinal tract drugs	Antacids, antiflatulents	aluminum hydroxide, calcium carbonate, magnesium oxide, sodium bicarbonate	3, 4	G, W; Watch timing with other medications.
	Antidiarrheals	bismuth subsalicylate (Pepto-Bismol, Kaopectate), diphenoxylate (Lomotil), loperamide (Immodium A-D)	3, 6, 8, 15	I, J, U
	Laxatives	docusate bisacodyl (Colace), psyllium (Dulcolax), glycerin lactulose, sodium phosphate, bisacodyl, mineral oil, senna (Senokot), magnesium citrate, lactitol (Pizensy)	4, 8, 15	I
	Antiemetic	prochlorperazine (Compazine), promethazine (Phenergan), ondansetron, amisulpride (Barhemsys)	5, 6, 7, 13, 16, 22, 24	H, K BLACK BOX WARNING
	Histamine H ₂ antagonist	cimetidine (Tagamet), famotidine (Pepcid), ranitidine (Zantac)	4, 9, 21	K, O
	Proton pump inhibitors	omeprazole (Prilosec), lansoprazole (Prevacid), pantoprazole (Protonix)	4, 7, 8, 9, 15, 21, 23, 42	F, W; Give 30-60 minutes before meals. Monitor magnesium levels before starting treatment then periodically.
Hormonal agents	Corticosteroids	cortisone, dexamethasone, hydrocortisone, methylprednisone, prednisone	7, 13, 14	A, I, W; Take completely as directed. Carry alert for steroid use identification.
	Estrogens and progestins	estrogen, progesterone	14, 21	I
	Antidiabetic agents	Insulins: regular, NPH, Lente, Humulin, Tresiba, Lantus, Toujeo, Levemir; glipizide (Glucotrol), metformin (Glucophage), chlorpropamide (Diabinese) pioglitazone (Actos)	6, 15, 26	H, I, T, W; Carry alert for diabetic identification. Closely monitor for volume depletion. Pens are for single-patient use. BLACK BOX WARNING
	Thyroid hormones	levothyroxine (Synthroid), liothyronine (cytomel, Triostat), liotrix (thyrolar)	2, 11, 13, 33	I, T; Avoid iodine foods and meds. BLACK BOX WARNING
Fluid & electrolyte drugs	Diuretics	furosemide (Lasix), acetazolamide (Diamox), chorothiazide (Diuril), hydrochlorothiazide (Esidrex, HydroDiuril), spironolactone (Aldactone), mannitol	6, 19, 30	I; Take early in day. BLACK BOX WARNING
	Electrolyte & replacement solutions	potassium supplements	4, 7, 15, 30	G, I, U; Monitor increased potassium signs. Labs as ordered.
Hematologic agents	Anticoagulants	heparin, enoxaparin (Lovenox), apixaban, warfarin (Coumadin, Jantoven)	4, 23, 24, 25	C, L; Monitor bruising. Labs as ordered. Carry alert for anticoagulant identification. BLACK BOX WARNING
	Thrombolytic enzymes	streptokinase, urokinase	15, 21, 23, 29	L; Report infections.

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Antineoplastic agents	Alkylating agents	carboplatin (Paraplatin) chlorambucil (Leukeran) cisplatin (Platinol)	4, 15	I, P, W; Report bleeding. BLACK BOX WARNING
	Antimetabolites	doxorubicin (Adriamycin) fluorouracil (5-FU)	4, 15	I, P, W; Report bleeding.
	Antibiotic antineoplastic agents	bleomycin, methotrexate, mitomycin, doxorubicin, daunorubicin	4, 15	I, P; Report bleeding. BLACK BOX WARNING
	Miscellaneous	interferon, vinblastine, vincristine, avapritinib (Ayvakit), ripretinib (Quinlock), selumetinib (Koselugo)	4, 15, 44	B, I, P, W; Report bleeding.
	Biologic modifier	epoetin alfa (Epogen) filgrastim (Neupogen)	15, 38	Evaluate for therapeutic response, absence of infection. Labs as ordered. Teach self administration, storage.
	Platelet aggregation inhibitor	clopidogrel (Plavix) dipyridamole	7, 8, 9, 21, 23	A, L, T; Report 4, 23, N, W BLACK BOX WARNING
Immuno-modulation agents	Immuno-suppressants	azathioprine, cyclosporine pimecrolimus (Elidel) certolizumab (Cimzia) dimethyl fumarate (Tecfidera)	11, 21, 31	I, P, W BLACK BOX WARNING
	Monoclonal antibodies	crizanlizumab-tmca (Adakveo) benralizumab, caplacizumab, crizotinib, eculizumab, emicizumab, ravulizumab, sotrovimab	1, 2, 4, 8, 15, 23, 24, 38, 40	Infusion only.
Vitamins and Minerals	Water-soluble vitamins	B-1, B-2, B-3 (nicotinic acid), B-5, B-6, B-7, B-9 (folic acid), B-12 (Cyanocobalamin), C (ascorbic acid)	4, 7, 8, 15	I
	Fat-soluble iron supplements	A, D, E, K ferrous fumarate ferrous gluconate (Fergon) ferrous sulfate (Ferosol)	3, 4, 8, 15, 32	B, E, F, G; I; Stool may change color to green or black.
Other	Antimigraines	almotriptan (Axert), Aimovig, sumatriptan (Imatrex), lasmiditan (Reyvow), rimegepant (Nurtec ODT), ubrogepant (Ubrovelvy)	5, 6, 15, 21, 22	K, W; Not intended for treatment of cluster headaches.
	Dietary supplement	Coenzyme Q10 (CoQ10)	5, 8, 13, 15, 16 21, 23, 32	Monitor closely when given with blood-thinning drugs such as warfarin as the combination makes the blood-thinner less effective. This could increase the risk of a blood clot.
	BPH drugs	tamsulosin (Flomax)	4, 5, 13, 15, 19	F, W; Give 30 minutes after the same meal each day.
	Cholinesterase inhibitors (Anti-Alzheimer drugs)	donepezil (Aricept) galantamine (Rezadyne) rivastigmine (Exelon) memantine (Namenda)	1, 5, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 29, 39, 42	H, I, W; Monitor for GI bleeding; Avoid cold or sleep remedies.
	Antigout drugs	allopurinol, probenecid-colchicine	4, 5, 8, 15, 23, 43	A, G, H, T, W
	Opioid antagonist	naloxone, (Narcan, Evzio)	2, 11, 14, 15, 19, 21, 28, 37	Monitor closely, may need to repeat dose. Provide oxygen, ventilation and other resuscitation measures as needed.