

MEDICATION SIDE EFFECTS AND ADVERSE EFFECTS

Date: _____

Note: This is an alphabetical list of medication classes commonly used by geriatric residents in the community or long-term care settings. Examples of generic medications and associated side effects are provided for each medication class. **This list is NOT all-inclusive.** Consult the package insert for each medication for a complete list of side effects.

This reference list utilizes "Tall-Man" lettering for drugs recommended by the FDA's Division of Generic Drugs to help prevent medication errors by distinguishing drugs with look-alike names (ex.: BuPROPion).

Instructions:

Please circle the medication(s) that are ordered for this resident. When medication(s) are discontinued, strike through the circle. Do not check off side effects that are not likely to experience all of the listed side effects/adverse effects associated with each medication. You may choose to highlight the side effects that are particularly likely for this individual resident.

DRUG CATEGORY (generic name)

Analgesics: Acetaminophen

Acetaminophen

alkaline phosphatase increased, liver dysfunction, leukopenia, neutropenia, pancytopenia, rash

Analgesics: Anti-Inflammatory Agents

Celecoxib	Floctafenine	Ketorolac	Naproxen
Diclofenac	Flurbiprofen	Meclofenamate	Oxaprozin
Diflunisal	Ibuprofen	Mefenamic Acid	Piroxicam
Etodolac	Indomethacin	Meloxicam	Sulindac
Fenoprofen	Ketoprofen	Nabumetone	Tolmetin

abdominal pain, anemia, bleeding, constipation, diarrhea, dizziness, dyspepsia, dyspnea, edema/fluid retention, gastrointestinal ulceration, headache, hypertension, itching, liver function tests (LFTs) increased, nausea, nervousness, palpitations, renal failure, somnolence, thrombosis, rash, ringing/buzzing in the ears

Analgesics: Antimigraine Agents

Almotriptan	Ergotamine	Rizatriptan
Dihydroergotamine	Frovatriptan	Sumatriptan
Eletriptan	Naratriptan	

bad taste (nasal spray), chest pain/tightness/heaviness, dizziness, throat disorders, fatigue, flushing, hypertension, injection site reactions (IM), paresthesias, throat discomfort, vasospasm, vomiting, warm sensation, weakness

Analgesics: Aspirin

Aspirin

angioedema, bleeding, bronchospasm, constipation, dizziness, tinnitus, thrombocytopenia

Analgesics: Opioids

Codeine	Hydrocodone Bitartrate	Oxycodone Hydrochloride
HYDROMORPHONE	Morphine	Tamoxifen
Meperidine	Tramadol	

constipation, dizziness, drowsiness, dry mouth, flushing, headache, histamine release, hot flashes, hypotension, miosis, nausea, nervousness, pain at injection site, peripheral vasodilation, physical and mental dependence, urinary retention, urination decreased, vomiting, weakness

anxiety, depression, dizziness, drowsiness, fatigue, headache, lightheadedness, memory impairment (ziconotide), muscle cramps, nausea, tremor, urinary tract infections (ziconotide), weight gain (pregabalin), xerostomia

Analgesics: Topical

Capsaicin, Lidocaine

allergic reaction, application site reaction, blanching, burning, stinging sensation, transient numbness on application

Analgesics: Urinary

Pentosan Polysulfate Sodium, Aminohippuric Acid, Phenazopyridine, Tetracycline, Fluorouracil, Hydroxyurea, Methotrexate, Vincristine, Vinorelbine, Zalcitabine, Zidovudine, Zalcitabine, Zidovudine

alopecia (hydroxyurea, methotrexate), anorexia, constipation, diarrhea, headache, retinal hemorrhage (hydroxyurea), nausea, vomiting (hydroxyurea, methotrexate), thrombocytopenia (hydroxyurea, methotrexate), weight gain (hydroxyurea)

Anticoagulants: Other

Abciximab, Bivalirudin, Desirudin, Lepirudin, Tenecteplase, Tirofiban, Xarelto, Enoxaparin, Fondaparinux, Heparin, Tinzaparin, Pentoxifylline

Anticoagulants: Thrombin Inhibitor

Abciximab, Bivalirudin, Desirudin, Lepirudin, Tenecteplase, Tirofiban, Xarelto, Enoxaparin, Fondaparinux, Heparin, Tinzaparin, Pentoxifylline

Anticoagulants: Warfarin

Warfarin

bleeding, hematuria, hemorrhage, hematoma, rash, skin necrosis (rare), transaminases increased

Anticonvulsants

Acetazolamide	Fosphenytoin	Oxcarbazepine	Topiramate
Carbamazepine	Gabapentin	Pentobarbital	Valproic Acid
Divalproex	Lacosamide	Phenytoin	Vigabatrin
Ethosuximide	Lamotrigine	Primidone	Zonisamide
Ethotoin	Levetiracetam	Rufinamide	
Felbamate	Methsuximide	Tiagabine	

(Note: side effects vary with each medication; see package insert for additional information) abdominal pain, abnormal gait, abnormal/blurred/double vision, alopecia, anorexia, ataxia, diarrhea, dizziness, drowsiness, fatigue, headache, lethargy, memory decreased, nausea, nervousness, nystagmus, paresthesia, somnolence, speech disorder, thrombocytopenia, tremor, vomiting, weakness

According to ISMP's List of High-Alert Medications¹

HR = High-Risk Medication*
if administered via any route

HR-INJ = High-Risk Medication*
if administered intravenously (IV) /
injected subcutaneously / intramuscularly

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MEDICATION SIDE EFFECTS AND ADVERSE EFFECTS

Antidementia Agents: Cholinesterase Inhibitors

Donepezil Galantamine Rivastigmine Tacrine

abnormal dreams, abdominal pain, anorexia, bradycardia, bruising, confusion, depression, diarrhea, dizziness, eczema, headache, hypertension, infections, insomnia, liver function test (LFT) abnormalities (tacrine), muscle cramps, nausea, urinary incontinence, vomiting

Antidementia Agents: Other

Memantine

constipation, cough, dizziness, dyspnea, hallucinations, headache, hypertension, vomiting, weight loss

Antidepressants: Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs)

Isocarboxazid Phenelzine
Moclobemide Tranylcypromine

anorexia, constipation, blurred vision, decreased sexual ability, diarrhea, dizziness, drowsiness, edema, headache, impotence, insomnia, leukopenia, orthostatic hypotension, suicidal thinking/behavior, tachycardia, thrombocytopenia, weakness, weight gain, xerostomia

Antidepressants: Other

BuPROPion Mirtazapine Nefazodone TraZODone

(Note: side effects vary with each medication; see package insert for additional information), anxiety, constipation, diarrhea, dizziness, headache, insomnia, nausea, somnolence, suicidal behavior/thinking, tachycardia, tremor, weight gain/loss, xerostomia

Antidepressants: Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) and Serotonin Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs)

Citalopram FLUoxetine Sertraline
Desvenlafaxine Fluvoxamine Venlafaxine
DULoxetine Milnacipran
Escitalopram PARoxetine

anorexia, anxiety, constipation, diaphoresis, diarrhea, dizziness, dry mouth, headaches, insomnia, nausea, nervousness, rash, rhinitis, sexual dysfunction, somnolence, suicidal thinking/behavior, tachycardia, respiratory infections, vomiting, weakness, weight gain

Antidepressants: Tricyclics and Tetracyclics

Amitriptyline Doxepin
ClomiPRAMINE Imipramine
Desipramine Maprotiline

anxiety, blurred vision, confusion, dizziness, dry mouth, ECG changes, glucose intolerance, hypertension, increased intraocular pressure, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, orthostatic hypotension, rash, sedation, suicidal thinking, tachycardia, weight gain, xerostomia

Antigout Agents

Allopurinol Febuxifan Probenecid

abdominal pain, dizziness, flushing, rash, vomiting

Antihistamines

Cetirizine Loratadine
Fexofenadine Levocetirizine
Loratadine Desloratadine
Cetirizine (antihistamines), dry mouth, fatigue, headache

Antitussives

Bromphenolone HydroXYzine
CarbinOXamine DimenhydrINATE Meclizine
Chlorpheniramine DiphenhydrAMINE Promethazine (HR-INJ)
Clemastine Doxylamine

blurred vision, confusion, dizziness, drowsiness, dry mouth, dry skin, hypotension, syncope, thickening of bronchial secretions, urinary retention

Anti-Infectives: Aminoglycosides

Amikacin Gentamicin Kanamycin Tobramycin

diarrhea, edema, gait instability, nausea, nephrotoxicity, neurotoxicity, ototoxicity, rash

Anti-Infectives: Antifungals

Fluconazole Griseofulvin Ketoconazole
Flucytosine Itraconazole Posaconazole

abdominal pain, diarrhea, dizziness, fatigue, headache, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia

Anti-Infectives: Anti-Influenza Agents

Osetamivir Rimantadine

abdominal pain, diarrhea, dizziness, nausea, vomiting

Anti-Infectives: Antivirals

Cidofovir Foscarnet Penciclovir
Famciclovir Ganciclovir Ribavirin

anemia, cough, diarrhea, febrile neutropenia, rash, retinal detachment, xerostomia

Anti-Infectives: Cephalosporins

Cefaclor Cefprozil Cefuroxime
Cefadroxil Cefepime Cefibiprole
CefAZOLIN Ceftriaxone CefTRIAXone
Cefdinir Cefixime Cefuroxime
Cefditoren Ceftriaxone Cephalexin

allergic reaction, confusion, diarrhea, dyspepsia, headache, nausea, pain at injection site (IV/IM), rash, taste buds increased, vaginitis

Anti-Infectives: Macrolides

Clarithromycin Erythromycin Spiramycin

abdominal pain, diarrhea, dizziness, drowsiness, increased creatinine, UN increased, cramping, diarrhea, headache, nausea, rash, vomiting

Anti-Infectives: Other

Meropenem Imipenem and Cilastatin Methenamine
Daptomycin Lincomycin MetroNIDAZOLE
Doripenem Linezolid Nitrofurantoin
Ertapenem Meropenem Vancomycin

(Note: side effects vary with each medication; see package insert for additional information)

Anti-Infectives: Penicillins

Amoxicillin Penicillin G Benzathine
Amoxicillin and Clavulanate Potassium Penicillin G Benzathine and Penicillin G Procaine
Ampicillin Penicillin G Procaine
Ampicillin and Sulbactam Penicillin V Potassium
Dicloxacillin Piperacillin
Nafcillin Piperacillin and Tazobactam Sodium
Oxacillin Ticarcillin and Clavulanate Potassium
Penicillin G (Parenteral/Aqueous)

allergic reactions, anemia, confusion, diarrhea, drowsiness, insomnia, nausea, rash, tooth discoloration (rare), transaminases increased, vomiting

Anti-Infectives: Quinolones

Ciprofloxacin Levofloxacin Norfloxacin
Gemifloxacin Moxifloxacin

abdominal pain, agitation, constipation, diarrhea, dizziness, drowsiness, headache, insomnia, liver function tests (LFTs) increased, nausea, pharyngitis, rash, rhinitis, vomiting

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MEDICATION SIDE EFFECTS AND ADVERSE EFFECTS

Diabetes Agents (Injectable): Insulin **HR-INSJ**

Insulin Aspart	Insulin Glargine	Insulin Lispro	Insulin Regular
Insulin Detemir	Insulin Glulisine	Insulin NPH	

atrophy of subcutaneous fat tissue, edema, fatigue, headache, hypoglycemia, hypokalemia, injection-site reactions, itching, palpitations, rash, tachycardia

Diabetes Agents (Injectable): Other

Exenatide	Liraglutide
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(Note: side effects vary with each medication; see package insert for additional information), acute renal failure, allergic reaction, antibody development, diarrhea, dizziness, headache, hypoglycemia, indigestion, nausea, nervousness, pancreatitis, upper respiratory infection, vomiting

Diabetes Agents (Oral): Metformin **HR**

MetFORMIN

abdominal discomfort, diarrhea, dyspnea, flatulence, headache, hypoglycemia, lactic acidosis (rare), myalgia, nausea, palpitations, rash, vomiting, weakness

Diabetes Agents (Oral): Other **HR**

Acarbose	Nateglinide	Repaglinide	SitaGLIPtin
Miglitol	Pramlintide	Saxagliptin	

(Note: side effects vary with each medication; see package insert for additional information), abdominal pain, diarrhea, flatulence, hepatic enzymes increased, nausea

Diabetes Agents (Oral): Sulfonylureas **HR**

ChlorPROPAMIDE	Glimepiride	GlipiZIDE	GlyBURIDE
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(Note: side effects vary with each medication; see package insert for additional information), anxiety, dizziness, edema, headache, hypoglycemia, hyponatremia, nausea, rash, vomiting, weakness

Diabetes Agents (Oral): Thiazolidinediones **HR**

Pioglitazone	Rosiglitazone
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back pain, cholesterol levels increased, edema, fatigue, heart failure, hyperglycemia, hypoglycemia, liver dysfunction, respiratory infection, tooth disorder, weight gain

Diuretics: Loop

Bumetanide	Ethacrynic Acid	Furosemide
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allergic reaction, anemia (rare), dizziness, hearing impairment, hyperglycemia, hypokalemia, orthostatic hypotension, tinnitus

Diuretics: Potassium Sparing

AMILoride	Triamterene
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(Note: side effects vary with each medication; see package insert for additional information), hypokalemia, hypotension, electrolyte disturbances, gynecomastia, confusion, nausea, rash, vomiting

Hydrochlorothiazide	Metolazone
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anemia, anorexia, chest pain, dizziness, hypokalemia, joint pain, orthostatic hypotension, volume depletion

Diabetes Agents

Avanafil	Tadalafil
Sildenafil	Vardenafil

epistaxis, erythema, flushing, headache, hearing decreased, indigestion, insomnia, priapism, retinal hemorrhage, rhinitis, visual disturbances

Gastrointestinal Agents: Antacids

Aluminum Hydroxide and Magnesium Carbonate	Calcium Carbonate
	Magnesium Hydroxide

abdominal cramps, constipation (more likely with calcium and aluminum), diarrhea (more likely with magnesium), fecal impaction, mineral disturbances, rebound hyperacidity, renal dysfunction, headache

Gastrointestinal Agents: Antidiarrheals

Attapulgite	Diphenoxylate
Bismuth	Loperamide
Difenoxin and Atropine	

abdominal distension, anxiety, constipation, drowsiness, dry mouth, fecal impaction, INR retention

Gastrointestinal Agents: Emetics

Aprepitant	Metoclopramide	Prochlorperazine
Dolasetron	Ondansetron	Tropizolamide
Droperidol		
Fosaprepitant		

anxiety, dizziness, headache, hypotension, liver dysfunction, nausea, vomiting, gynecologic disorders, malaise/fatigue, orthostatic hypotension, syncope

Gastrointestinal Agents: Antispasmodics

Hyoscyamine	Scopolamine
Hyoscyamine	

Gastrointestinal Agents: Antispasmodics

Hyoscyamine	Hyoscyamine
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blurred vision, confusion, constipation, diarrhea, dizziness, dry mouth, dry eyes, dry skin, headache, impotence, nausea, palpitations, urinary retention, weakness

Gastrointestinal Agents: Histamine 2 Blockers

Cimetidine	Nizatidine
Ramotidine	Ranitidine

agitation, anemia (rare), confusion, constipation, diarrhea, dizziness, gynecomastia, headache, liver function tests (LFTs) increased, rash, somnolence

Gastrointestinal Agents: Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)

Balsalazide	Olsalazine
Mesalamine	Sulfasalazine

abdominal pain, arthralgia, chest pain, chills, edema, diarrhea, dyspepsia, dizziness, headache, insomnia, myalgia, nausea, pharyngitis, photosensitivity, vomiting

Gastrointestinal Agents: Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)

Alosetron	Tegaserod
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abdominal pain, bowel obstruction, chest pain, constipation, diarrhea, headache, hypotension, ischemic colitis, nausea, syncope

Gastrointestinal Agents: Laxatives

Bisacodyl	Methylcellulose
Castor Oil	Mineral Oil
Docusate and Senna	Polycarbophil
Lactulose	Polyethylene Glycol
Lubiprostone	Psyllium
Magnesium Citrate	Senna
Magnesium Hydroxide	Sodium Phosphates

abdominal cramping, bloating, diarrhea, electrolyte and fluid imbalance, flatulence

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MEDICATION SIDE EFFECTS AND ADVERSE EFFECTS

Osteoporosis Agents: Selective Estrogen Receptor Modulators (SERMs)

Raloxifene
chest pain, flu symptoms, headache, hot flashes, infection, joint pain, nausea

Osteoporosis Agents: Vitamin D

Calcitriol Cholecalciferol Ergocalciferol
constipation, headache, irritability, myalgia, nausea, pruritis, somnolence, thirst, vomiting

Potassium Supplements (Oral)

Potassium chloride Potassium citrate Potassium phosphate
abdominal pain/discomfort, diarrhea, flatulence, gastrointestinal bleeding/obstruction/perforation (when used orally), hyperkalemia, nausea, rash, vomiting

Potassium chloride Injection (HR-INJ) Potassium phosphate Injection (HR-INJ)
See manufacturer's insert for complete listing of side effects.

Respiratory Agents: Anticholinergics

Ipratropium Tiotropium
abdominal pain, abnormal taste, constipation, dry nasal mucosa, dyspepsia, edema, infections, myalgia, nasal congestion, rash, vomiting, xerostomia

Respiratory Agents: Bronchodilators

Albuterol Levalbuterol Salmeterol
Arformoterol Metaproterenol Terbutaline
Formoterol Pirbuterol

anxiety, dizziness, dry mouth, gastrointestinal pain/discomfort, headache, insomnia, nausea, nervousness, palpitations, tachycardia, taste loss/disturbance, throat irritation, tremor

Respiratory Agents: Other

Aminophylline Nedocromil Zafirlucast
Cromolyn Omalizumab Zileuton
Montelukast Theophylline

(Note: side effects vary with each medication; see package insert for complete information)

Respiratory Agents: Steroids

Beclomethasone Ciclesonide
Budesonide Flunisolide
acne, adrenal suppression, bronchospasm, dizziness, headache, hypertension, insomnia, nausea, rhinitis, sinusitis, xerostomia, psychiatric disturbances, respiratory irritation

Respiratory Agents: Steroids (Topical)

Beclomethasone Fluticasone
Budesonide Triamcinolone
acne, adrenal suppression, bronchospasm, dizziness, headache, hypertension, insomnia, nausea, rhinitis, sinusitis, xerostomia, psychiatric disturbances, respiratory irritation

Skeletal Muscle Relaxant

Baclofen	Dantrolene	Orphenadrine
Carisoprodol	Metaxalone	
Cyclobenzaprine	Methocarbamol	

ataxia, blurred vision, confusion, constipation, dizziness, drooping eyelids, dry mouth, fatigue, headache, hypotension, hypotonia, insomnia, polyuria, psychiatric disturbances, rash, slurred speech, somnolence, weakness, xerostomia

Steroids

Betamethasone	Hydrocortisone
Dexamethasone	MethylPREDNISOLONE
Fludrocortisone	PrednisolONE

acne, appetite change, edema, electrolyte disturbance, fluid retention, distribution, fatigue, flu-like symptoms, fracture, hyperkalemia, hyperglycemia, hyperkinesia, hypertension, infection, insomnia, moon face, nausea, nervousness, oral candidiasis, osteoporosis, weight gain, taste perversion, weight gain

Steroids (Topical)

Alclometasone	Triamcinolone
Amcinonide	Halobetasol
Betamethasone	Mometasone
Fluocinonide	Prednicarbate
Flurandecolide	Triamcinolone
Fluticasone	

allergic contact dermatitis, burning/itching upon application, folliculitis, itching, hypertrichosis, hypopigmentation, skin maceration, skin atrophy

Smooth Muscle Antispasmodics

Oxybutynin
confusion, constipation, drowsiness, dysuria, fatigue, headache, hypertension, pressure increased, leukopenia, nausea, nervousness, palpitations, tachycardia, vertigo, vomiting

Urinary Agents: Benign Prostatic Hypertrophy (BPH)

Alfuzosin	Finasteride	Tamsulosin
Dutasteride	Silodosin	Terazosin

abdominal pain, diarrhea, dizziness, edema, fatigue, headache, orthostatic hypotension, respiratory tract infection, sexual dysfunction, somnolence, vertigo

Urinary Agents: Urinary Incontinence

Darifenacin	Fesoterodine	Solifenacin	Tolterodine	Trospium
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blurred vision, constipation, diarrhea, dry eyes, dry mouth, dyspepsia, dizziness, fatigue, headache, insomnia, nausea, nervousness, rhinitis, somnolence, urinary retention, weakness, xerostomia



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