

Drug Classifications	Explained/Defined
Draft	
Antacid /Alkalinizes	An alkalinizing agent. Oral routes used to increase the pH of the gastrointestinal tract/urinary tract. Given IV to increase systemic pH.
Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors	Use of MAOIs typically requires diet restrictions because they can cause dangerously high blood pressure when taken with certain foods or medications.
Antidiarrheal (MAOIs)	Antidiarrheal action achieved by decreasing peristalsis
Diuretics	Increase the volume of urine produced by promoting the excretion of salt and water from the kidneys.
Lithium	Lithium affects the flow of sodium through nerve and muscle cells in the body. Sodium affects excitation or mania. Loop diuretics: Increases response to reestablish urine flow and convert oliguria renal failure to nonoliguric renal failure. Lithium is used to treat the manic episodes of manic depression. Manic symptoms include hyperactivity, rushed speech, poor judgment, reduced need for sleep, aggression, and anger. It also helps to prevent or lessen the intensity of manic episodes. Example: Bumex, Edecrin, Lasix, and Demadex.
Anti-Psychotic	Osmotic diuretic: Increases the osmotic draw in the blood and urine. Used in those with bipolar disorder as a short-term treatment to control psychotic symptoms such as hallucinations or delusions or mania symptoms. Some also treat bipolar depression, and several have been demonstrated long-term value to prevent manic episodes of mania or depression. Thiazide diuretics: lowers blood glucose levels by increasing peripheral glucose uptake and by inhibiting the liver from changing glycogen to glucose.
Insulin	Used to provide oral sugar in those with these symptoms may occur during glucose malabsorption or severe depression.
Antimalarial Drugs	Designed to prevent the malaria from changing glycogen to glucose.
Histamine 2 Antagonists	Decreases the amount of acid produced by the stomach affect the lungs and other organs.
Bronchodilator	Widen the same passages by relaxing the bronchial smooth muscle. Seromycin (Seromycin), ethambutol (Myambutol), ethionamide
Opioid Antagonist (Narcan)	Used to counter the effects of opioid overdose, specifically the time Myocardial depression or Kidney dysfunction.
Antirheumatic Drugs (DMARDs)	Reduce the inflammation and hyperplasia of Rheumatoid Arthritis itself and do not only treat symptoms, hence their name. DMARDs also have anti-inflammatory effects and most were borrowed from the treatment of other diseases, such as cancer and malaria.
Anxiolytic Agents	Used for the treatment of anxiety by depressing central nervous system function.
Sedatives	Antimalarials DMARDs include chloroquine (Aralen) and hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil). Powerful DMARDs include: methotrexate (Rheumatrex), sulfasalazine, cyclosporine, azathioprine (Imuran) and cyclophosphamide (Cytoxan), azathioprine, sulfasalazine, penicillamine, and organic gold compounds such as aurothioglucose (Solganol), gold sodium thiomalate (Aurolate) and auranofin (Ridaura).
Anti-Infectives	Used as a barbiturate or anti-anxiety agent, that depresses the activity of the central nervous system and is used to relieve anxiety and induce sleep. Example: Temazepam [Restoril], zolpidem [Ambien], zaleplon [Sonata], ramelteon [Rozerem], eszopiclone [Lunesta]
	Anti-infectives are drugs that can either kill an infectious agent or inhibit it from spreading. Anti-infectives include antibiotics and antibacterials, antifungals, antivirals and antiprotozoans.
Potassium	Potassium plays a major role in acid-base balance, in conducting nerve impulses, and maintaining the electrical excitability of muscle.
Anti-Impotence	There are only five oral drugs approved by the FDA to treat erectile dysfunction: Cialis, Levitra, Staxyn, Stendra, and Viagra. All
Antiemetic	Suppress nausea and vomiting by blocking activation of the vomiting center of the brain.
Benzodiazepine	Work by increasing the flow of blood into the penis so that when a man is sexually stimulated, he can get an erection.
Steroidal/Non Steroidal	Suppress the central nervous system for treating anxiety and insomnia.
Antibiotics	Replacement therapy for postmenopausal women, and in hormone replacement therapy for trans women.
Contraception	Sexually active men suppresses microbial pathogens without causing injury to the host.
Histamine 2 Antagonists	The effects of oral birth control methods are critically important for preventing the risk of unintended pregnancy. Effectiveness
Thyroid Hormone	Back on the scene of HRTs “perfect use” when the method is used correctly and consistently as directed, or during “typical use,”
Antimetabolites	which is how effective the method is during actual use.
Antithyroid Agent	Replacement for hormones normally produced in the thyroid gland.
Beta-blocker	A drug or other substance that is an antagonist to or resembles a normal human metabolite and interferes with its function in the body, usually by competing for its receptors or enzymes. Among the antimetabolites used as antineoplastic agents are the
Tocolytics	Suppress thyroid hormone synthesis.
Glucocorticoid	folic acid analog methotrexate and the pyrimidine analog fluorouracil.
	Interfere with the binding of epinephrine and other stress hormones to beta receptors. Beta receptors are found on cells of the heart muscles, smooth muscles, airways, arteries, kidneys, and other tissues that are part of the sympathetic nervous system .
	Used in medicine to treat diseases caused by an overactive immune system, such as allergies, asthma, autoimmune diseases, and sepsis.
	Example: Propanol
Corticosteroid	Steroid hormone produced by the adrenal cortex. (1) Increases the availability of glucose for metabolism processes and promote the metabolism of carbohydrates, protein, and fat. (2) Supports the functional integrity of the vessels and skeletal muscles. (3) secreted in response to stress
Sulfonylureas	Act by increasing insulin release from the beta cells in the pancreas.
Meglitinides	Act by increasing insulin release from the beta cells in the pancreas.
Biguanides	Increase insulin sensitivity of tissues, decreasing serum glucose and decreasing gluconeogenesis.
a-glucosidase inhibitors	Prevent the digestion of carbohydrates, reducing the impact of carbohydrate metabolism on blood sugar.

	Example: Betamethosone
Cephalosporin	Kill bacteria and have the same mode of action as other beta-lactam antibiotics (such as penicillins). All bacterial cells have a cell wall that protects them. Cephalosporins disrupt the synthesis of the peptidoglycan layer of bacterial cell walls, which causes the walls to break down and eventually the bacteria die. Example: cefadroxil (Duricef), cefazidone , cefazolin (Ancef, Kefazol) , cephalexin (Keflex, Keftabs), cephalothin (Keflin), cephradine (Velocef, Intracef) , cephaloridine (Ceporin), and cephapirin
Sulfamethoxazole/ trimethoprim	Sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim. Both drugs reduce the ability of some bacteria to utilize folic acid for growing. Sulfamethoxazole is an anti-bacterial sulfonamide, a "sulfa" drug. It disrupts the production of dihydrofolic acid while trimethoprim disrupts the production of tetrahydrofolic acid. Example: Bactrim, Septra, others)
Carbidopa-Levodopa	Used in the treatment of Parkinson's disease. Parkinson's disease is believed to be caused by low levels of dopamine in certain parts of the brain. When levodopa is taken orally, it crosses into the brain through the "blood- brain barrier." Once it crosses, it is converted to dopamine. The resulting increase in brain dopamine concentrations is believed to improve nerve conduction and assist the movement disorders in Parkinson disease. Carbidopa does not cross the blood-brain barrier. Carbidopa is added to the levodopa to prevent the breakdown of levodopa before it crosses into the brain.
Cholinesterase Inhibitors	Helps with memory and thinking. In AD, acetylcholine is broken down and less acetylcholine is produced over time. Example: Namenda
Disease Modifying Drugs	Slow down the progression of MS and prevent relapses to keep you active for longer. These drugs work by suppressing the immune system so that it doesn't attack the protective coating (myelin) surrounding the nerves. Example: Interferon beta 1b (Betaseron, Extavia) and Glatiramer acetate (Copaxone)
Thrombolytic	These are powerful drugs that can actually dissolve an existing clot. They can be used only under certain circumstances and are given only in the hospital. They can be injected directly into the blocked artery under angiographic guidance. To be effective, they have to be administered intravenously within the first 4-8 hours after a patient develops symptoms. Work by dissolving a major clot quickly. This helps restart blood flow to the heart and helps prevent damage to the heart muscle. Thrombolytic can stop a heart attack that would otherwise be deadly. Example: Tissue plasminogen activator (t-PA)
Iron Supplement	A mineral that's necessary for life. Iron plays a key role in the making of red blood cells, which carry oxygen.
Vitamin C	(ascorbic acid) pills or orange juice. Vitamin C helps your body absorb more iron.
Vitamin B12	Also called cobalamin, is a water-soluble vitamin with a key role in the normal functioning of the brain and nervous system, and for the formation of blood. It is one of the eight B vitamins. It is normally involved in the metabolism of every cell of the human body, especially affecting DNA synthesis and regulation, but also fatty acid synthesis (especially odd chain fatty acids) and energy production.
Amylase	Digestive enzymes to help break down and digest fats, starch, and proteins in food. It is used in conditions where the pancreas

	cannot make or does not release enough digestive enzymes into the small intestines to digest the food.
Stimulants	Stimulants may be used to increase levels of alertness and attention.
Hormone Therapy	A supplement of estrogen or progesterone, or both, and it can be administered by pill, transdermal patch or injection.
Immunosuppressant /Anti-Rejection Drug	Anti-rejection drugs, which are also called immunosuppressants, help to suppress the immune system's response to a new organ. When a new organ is placed inside a patient's body, the patient's immune system recognizes the organ as foreign tissue and tries to reject it.
Dialysis	Peritoneal dialysis is often done at night in your home for 8-10 hours, using an automated cycler machine while you sleep. Or you may use a manual PD method, which usually means doing four to five 30-minute fluid exchanges a day to clean your blood fully. Hemodialysis: is a method that is used to achieve the extracorporeal removal of waste products such as creatinine and urea and free water from the blood when the kidneys are in a state of renal failure. Hemodialysis is one of three renal replacement therapies (the other two being renal transplant and peritoneal dialysis). An alternative method for extracorporeal separation of blood components such as plasma or cells is apheresis. Done with a full kidney care team, including a nurse, patient care technician (PCT), dietitian and social worker, at a dialysis center.
Statins	For the reduction of elevated total cholesterol, LDL-cholesterol, apo B and triglyceride levels, and to increase HDL-cholesterol in patients with primary hyperlipidemia. Example: Simvastatin, Atorvastatin
Antiplatelets	Include aspirin, ticlopidine, and clopidogrel. These agents do not get rid of an existing clot. They prevent further clots from forming by keeping blood cells and platelets from clumping together.
Anticoagulant	Include heparin, warfarin (Coumadin), enoxaparin (Lovenox), and low-molecular-weight heparin: These agents also do not remove an existing clot. They interfere with the sequence of blood clotting factors that causes a clot to form.
Pentoxifylline	Used to improve blood flow. Improved blood flow helps to reduce leg cramps and other symptoms of vascular disease (disease related to veins and arteries). Example: Pentoxil, Trental
Cilostazol	Used to treat the symptoms of intermittent claudication. This condition causes reduced blood flow to the legs, leading to pain while walking. Cilostazol improves your ability to walk longer distances without pain. Example: Pletal
Vasodilator	It is prescribed for the prevention or relief of angina pectoris. There are recommended limits to the amount of nitroglycerin use before calling for emergency assistance (no more than 3 sublingual tablets at 5-minute intervals). The drug should not be used continuously, because tolerance develops within 24 to 48 hrs. Example: Nitroglycerin
Vasopressors	Vasopressors cause vasoconstriction (contract blood vessels) and increase blood pressure
Botulinum toxin	Botulinum toxin, sometimes marketed under the name botox , can be used to treat achalasia. This is a condition where the muscles in the esophagus become too stiff to allow food and liquid to enter the stomach.

	Botulinum toxin is a powerful poison that is safe to use in very small doses. The toxin can be used to paralyse the overly stiff muscles that are preventing food from reaching the stomach. However, the effects only last for around six months.
Oxybutynin	Reduces muscle spasms of the bladder and urinary tract.
Sulfonylurea	Lowers blood glucose (sugar) by influencing the body's sensitivity to insulin and is used for treating type 2 diabetes. Examples: Glyburide and Metformin
Lactulose	Used to reduce the amount of ammonia in the blood of patients with liver disease. It works by drawing ammonia from the blood into the colon where it is removed from the body.
Potassium Channel Blockers	A class of drugs that act by inhibition of potassium efflux through cell membranes. Example: Amiodarone (Cordarone)