

N322 Drug Card Template—Exam One
Hope Dykes

Brand/Generic	Lovenox/ Enoxaparin
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Prevents clots, including Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Often given post-op to prevent clotting complications. Can be given in some situations when patients are bed ridden long-term.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Bleeding episodes; Thrombocytopenia; Anemia
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Teaching: Do not take Aspirin while using this medication! Use a soft toothbrush and electric razor while using this medication. Report unusual bleeding/ bruising. Considerations: Protamine Sulfate is the Antidote.

Brand/Generic	Heparin
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Prevents clot formation by interfering between fibrinogen/ fibrin/ prothrombin/ thrombin. Can prevent Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Prescribed for patients who need anticoagulation therapy during pregnancy. Given after open-heart surgery and dialysis.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Spontaneous bleeding/ bruising; Thrombocytopenia; Anemia
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Teaching: Do not take Aspirin while using this medication! Use a soft toothbrush and electric razor while using this medication. Report unusual bleeding/ bruising. Considerations: Apply firm pressure for 1-2 minutes after

	admin, but do not massage injection site.
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Brand/Generic	Warfarin/ Coumadin
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Inhibits Vit K from synthesizing clotting factors. It disrupts the coagulation cascade.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Used to prevent DVT and PE. Also prevents clots after valve replacements.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Spontaneous bleeding/ bruising; Cramps; Fever.
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Teaching: Avoid dark green leafy vegetables (high in Vit K). Frequent lab tests done to test PT/INR/CBC. Do not drink alcohol or take antiplatelet medications. Must be taken exactly as ordered at exactly the same time each day. Considerations: Takes 3-5 days to reach effective levels.

Brand/Generic	Xarelto/ Rivaroxaban
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Prevents clots, including Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism. In addition to preventing, this medication can also treat DVT and PE.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Often given post-op to prevent clotting complications. Can be given in some situations when patients are bed ridden long-term.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Headache, Hypotension, Spontaneous bleeding
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Do not take Aspirin or NSAIDS while on this medication without consulting PCP. Report unusual bleeding or bruising. Use soft toothbrush and electric razor.

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Brand/Generic	Eliquis/ Apixaban
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Prevents clots, including Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism. In addition to preventing, this medication can also treat DVT and PE.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Often given post-op to prevent clotting complications. Can be given in some situations when patients are bed ridden long-term.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Headache, Hypotension, Spontaneous bleeding
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Do not take Aspirin or NSAIDS while on this medication without consulting PCP. Report unusual bleeding or bruising. Use soft toothbrush and electric razor.

Brand/Generic	Plavix/ Clopidogrel
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Acts as a blood thinner by keeping platelets from sticking together.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Makes the blood thinner, which can ease pressure on the heart and vessels. It can reduce the risk of stroke and MI in some patients.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Gastrointestinal bleeding, Bruising, Neutropenia (increased risk for infection)
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	This medication must be taken at the same time every day. Frequent blood tests will be needed to monitor thrombocytes, leukocytes, lipids, and uric acid levels. Notify PCP immediately if fever, chills, or sore chest pain

	are present.
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Brand/Generic	Aspirin
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Decreases pain, inflammation, and prevents platelets from sticking together.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Anti-inflammatory, Mild pain reliever, and Used to reduce the risk of Stroke, MI, and TIA
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Heartburn, Bleeding, Electrolyte imbalance
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Give with milk to decrease nausea and heartburn. Do not give to any patients with bleeding disorders or who are already taking blood thinners.

Brand/Generic	Persantine/ Dipyridamole
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Prevents blood clots and used to diagnose blockages in blood vessels to the heart.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Used in patients who have heart valve replacements to prevent blood clots or as a diagnostic to check blood vessels in the heart.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Headache, hypotension, fainting
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Check blood pressure before administration. Do not administer if blood pressure is low. Tell patient not to drive immediately after receiving this

	medication.
Brand/Generic	Activase/ Alteplase
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Clot buster
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Used to break up clots in DVT, PE, Acute ischemic stroke, and MI
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Intracranial hemorrhage, GI bleeding, Hypotension
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Instruct patient to stay in bed after receiving to prevent injury. This medication is very time critical! The more quickly it can be given after a clot is formed, the better chances the patient has at surviving the event. Antidote is aminocaproic acid

Brand/Generic	Protamine Sulfate
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Heparin Antidote. Forms a complex with Heparin.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Can prevent severe bleeding in a Heparin overdose. It can also neutralize Heparin given during dialysis and other procedures.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Anaphylaxis, Angioedema, Pulmonary Edema
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Tell patients to avoid activities that might result in bleeding. Assess patient for fish allergy before administration! Infertile and vasectomized patients have higher risk for hypersensitivity.

	In severe cases, fresh frozen plasma or whole blood may be required to control bleeding.
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Brand/Generic	Vitamin K
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Antidote for Warfarin
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	To reverse warfarin overdose, prevention of hemorrhaging in newborns, and treatment of hemorrhage.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Kernicterus in newborns (bilirubin crosses the blood-brain barrier), Hemolytic anemia, Swelling/ urticaria
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Watch for unusual bleeding. Do not make drastic diet changes while being treated with this drug.

Brand/Generic	Epoetin Alfa
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Increases red blood cell production in the bone marrow
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Treats anemia in cancer and renal failure patients.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Hypertension, headache, and nausea
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Monitor Blood Pressure while patient is using. Watch platelets and iron levels in the blood.

	Monitor CBC levels.
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Brand/Generic	Neupogen (filgrastim)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Stimulates the growth of neutrophils to fight infection.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Given to patients receiving chemotherapy that affects the bone marrow or who are getting ready to have a bone marrow transplant. Also treats chronic neutropenia.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Bone or muscle pain, exhaustion, hair loss
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Do not give to patients with sickle cell anemia as it will stimulate more cell growth, which can worsen the condition. This is given intravenously in a hospital setting. Do not give to patients who are taking Lithium (it releases neutrophils)

Brand/Generic	Statin Family: Lipitor, Mevacor, Zocor, Crestor, Prevacol
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Lowers LDL cholesterol and raises HDL cholesterol
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Helps prevent stroke, MI, and coronary heart disease in patients with high LDL cholesterol and low HDL cholesterol.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Dizziness, Chest pain, Abdominal cramps
Nursing Considerations or	Interacts with grapefruit and grapefruit juice.

Teaching (1 or 2)	Notify PCP of muscle pain or weakness occurs, especially if it comes with fever. This can indicate rhabdomyolysis (death of muscle tissue).
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Brand/Generic	Ezetimibe (Zetia)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Lowers cholesterol by inhibiting its absorption in the small intestine
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Treats high cholesterol, usually used along with a statin
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Jaundice (can harm the liver), angioedema (swelling), and nausea
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	This medication should be used along side diet restrictions, exercise, and smoking cessation. This medication cannot cure elevated cholesterol levels by itself.

Brand/Generic	Colesevelam (Welchol)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Makes the liver use more cholesterol to make bile. This reduces cholesterol in the blood.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Manages pruritis (itching) in patients with hypercholesterolemia and liver disorders.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Constipation, Vitamin deficiencies, Fecal impaction
Nursing Considerations or	Watch for black, tarry stools.

Teaching (1 or 2)	Vitamins should be taken with this medication. Vitamins A, D, and K levels need to be watched especially.
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Brand/Generic	Fibrates (Gemfibrozil)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Raises HDL (good cholesterol) and decreases production of triglycerides in the liver.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Manages cholesterol in patients who have high triglycerides, low LDL, and high HDL levels. Prevents pancreatitis.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Dizziness, Headache, Heartburn
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Watch electrolytes while patients are using this medication. Notify PCP of muscle pain or weakness occurs, especially if it comes with fever. This can indicate rhabdomyolysis (death of muscle tissue).

Brand/Generic	Remicade (Infliximab)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Immunosuppressant antibody that fights chronic inflammatory diseases
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Chron's disease, ulcerative colitis, and some autoimmune types of arthritis.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Flu-like symptoms, fever/ chills, swelling
Nursing	Tell patients to avoid contact with sick people as they will

Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	be more susceptible to infection. Avoid sunlight whenever possible. Do not use tanning beds or sun lamps.
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Brand/Generic	Adalimumab (Humira)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Immunosuppressant that reduces pain and inflammation
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis, Chron's, Ulcerative colitis
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Redness and swelling at injection site, upper respiratory infections, headache
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Increases patient risk of infection. Prolonged use can lead to sepsis. Patients should avoid contact with sick people.

Brand/Generic	Enbrel (etanercept)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Reduces inflammatory and immune responses
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, psoriasis, and Ankylosing spondylitis
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Headache, infection, injection site reactions
Nursing Considerations or	A test for TB must be completed before this medication can be started.

Teaching (1 or 2)	Report unusual swelling in the legs.
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Brand/Generic	Methotrexate
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Stops the growth of a fertilized egg and helps the body absorb the leftover tissues
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Can treat ectopic pregnancy
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Vaginal spotting or bleeding, Abdominal cramping, Diarrhea
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Liver, kidney, and CBC labs must be completed before giving this medication. Hormone levels will be checked several times after administration. There is a chance this will not work.
Brand/Generic	Cyclosporine (Sandimmune)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Immunosuppressant, Anti-rejection drug
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Given to transplant patients to prevent the immune system from attacking the new organ
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Frequent urination, Jaundice, Excessive hair growth
Nursing	It is imperative doses not be missed.

Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Dangerous in pregnancy. Let PCP know if pregnancy is planned.
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Brand/Generic	Tacrolimus (Prograf)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Immunosuppressant, Anti-rejection drug
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Given to transplant patients to prevent the immune system from attacking the new organ. This medication is used primarily in kidney transplants. It can also be used to treat eczema.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Jaundice, Sudden unexpected weight gain, Burning or tingling in the hands and feet
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	This medication can increase blood sugar in both diabetic and nondiabetic patients. It is important to report an increase in thirst or urination.

Brand/Generic	Cytarabine (Adrucil)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Chemotherapy that both suppresses the immune system and reduces the growth of cancer cells
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Lymphomas and leukemias. It is usually given along side other cancer treatments.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Increased infections, Bone and/or muscle pain, Loss of appetite
Nursing Considerations or	Tell patients to avoid contact with sick people as they will be more susceptible to infection.

Teaching (1 or 2)	Do not take Aspirin or Acetaminophen while on this medication. Do not get any vaccines while taking this medication.
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Brand/Generic	Doxorubicin (Rubicin)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Chemotherapy drug
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Leukemia, Lymphoma, Neuroblastoma, Sarcoma, Wilms' tumor, Bladder cancer, Breast cancer, Lung cancer, Ovarian cancer, Stomach cancer, and Thyroid cancer.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Tachycardia, Hair loss, Mouth sores
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Urine may turn red. This is not blood. Do not become pregnant for at least 6 months after taking. This medication causes increased bleeding risks.

Brand/Generic	Cyclophosphamide
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Chemotherapy that slows the growth of cancer cells
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Leukemia, lymphoma, Ovarian and Breast Cancer, in addition to some other types of cancer.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Hair loss, Infection, Bleeding risks
Nursing Considerations or	Do not become pregnant for at least 1 year after taking.

Teaching (1 or 2)	This drug affects fertility in men and women.
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Brand/Generic	Topotecan (Hycamtin)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Chemotherapy that acts as an Immunosuppressant
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Small cell lung cancer
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Loss of appetite, Fainting spells, Hair loss
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Avoid being around people who are sick. Do not become pregnant for at least 6 months after taking this drug.

Brand/Generic	Leuprolide and Flutamide
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Man-made, acts like a hormone in the body and blocks normal testosterone
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Prostate cancer and early puberty in boys, Endometriosis in women
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Depression, Muscle pain, Acne
Nursing Considerations or	Do not take with any herbal supplements.

Teaching (1 or 2)	These medications may interact with birth control.
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Brand/Generic	Tamoxifen
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Blocks the effects of estrogen
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Treats breast cancer and can prevent it from returning in people who have been treated for breast cancer.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Fatigue, Headache, Hot flashes
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	This medication interacts with birth control. Do not breast feed while using this medication or become pregnant for at least 2 months after stopping.

Brand/Generic	Anastrozole
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Blocks estrogen production
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Used to treat breast cancer in women who have already been through menopause
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Bone pain, Hot flashes, Hair loss
Nursing Considerations or Teaching	Take Vitamin D and Calcium supplements while taking this medication to prevent bone loss.

Teaching (1 or 2)	
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Brand/Generic	Trastuzumab
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Monoclonal antibody—it mimics and enhances the immune system’s attacks on cancer cells.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Treats Breast cancer and Stomach cancer
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Flu-like symptoms, Bone/ joint pain, Weight loss
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Patients will probably get a fever and chills after the first administration. This is normal. Do not become pregnant for at least 7 months after stopping this medication.

Brand/Generic	Interferon Alfa-2b
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Man-made protein that mimics and enhances the immune system to fight viral infections and cancer
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	AIDS-related Kaposi’s sarcoma, Hepatitis, some Cancers, and Genital warts
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Confusion, Fainting spells, Depression
Nursing Considerations or Teaching	Do not drive until you know how this medication will affect you. It can cause severe drowsiness, dizziness, and fainting.

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Brand/Generic	Pembrolizumab (Keytruda)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Monoclonal antibody—it mimics and enhances the immune system’s attacks on cancer cells.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Many different types of cancer
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Confusion, Chills, Tachycardia
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	This medication increases infection and bleeding risks. Do not become pregnant for at least 4 months after stopping this medication.