

N322 Drug Card Template

Brand/Generic	Antipyretics: Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Reduces the production of prostaglandins in the brain.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Temporarily relieve minor aches, pains, and temporarily reduce fever.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rash • Nausea • Headache
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise patient to avoid alcohol if taking more than an occasional 1-2 doses. • Chronic excessive use of >4 g/day may lead to hepatotoxicity, renal, or cardiac damage.

Salicylate

Brand/Generic	Salicylates: Aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Inhibiting the production of prostaglandins.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Reduce fever and relieve mild to moderate pain.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GI bleeding • Hearing loss • Wheezing
Nursing Considerations or Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give with food, milk, or at least plenty of water. • Works faster for headaches than any other OTC.

(1 or 2)	
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NSAIDS

Brand/Generic	ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin, Nuprin, Motrin IB)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Inhibits prostaglandin synthesis.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	To reduce fever and treat pain or inflammation.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abdominal pain • Belching • Bloating
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of higher than recommended does not provide increased pain relief but may increase incidence of side effects. • Advise pts to take ibuprofen with a full glass of water and to remain in an upright position for 15-30min after administration.

-oxicam's

Brand/Generic	meloxicam (Mobic), piroxicam (Feldene)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Inhibits prostaglandin synthesis.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Used to treat arthritis. Reduces pain, swelling, and stiffness of the joints.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abdominal pain • Anemia • Edema

Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess for rash periodically during therapy. May cause Stevens-Johnson syndrome or toxic epidermal necrolysis. • Caution pt to avoid the concurrent use of alcohol, aspirin, acetaminophen, or other OTC meds without consulting health care professional.

Acetic acid derivatives

Brand/Generic	indomethacin (Indocin), Voltaren (diclofenac sodium), etodolac (Lodine), ketorolac (Toradol)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Inhibits prostaglandin synthesis.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Relieve pain, swelling, and joint stiffness.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abdominal pain • GI pain • Dyspepsia
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May cause drowsiness/dizziness. Advise pt to avoid driving/other activities requiring alertness until response to medication is known. • Caution pt to wear sunscreen & protective clothing to prevent photosensitivity reactions.

COX-2's

Brand/Generic	celecoxib (Celebrex, Vioxx, Bextra)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Inhibits the enzyme COX-2.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually)	Reducing hormones that cause inflammation and pain in the body.

prescribed	
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dizziness/Headache • Constipation • GI problems
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-inflammatory effect not full until 7 days • Prolonged daily use = kidney damage.

Gout medications

Brand/Generic	colchicine (Colcrys), allopurinol (Zyloprim)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Interferes with the function of WBCs in initiating and preserving the inflammatory response to monosodium urate crystals.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Decreasing swelling & lessening the build up of uric acid that cause pain in the affected joint(s).
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diarrhea • Nausea/vomiting • Stomach pain
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise pt to avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice during therapy. • Take missed dose as soon as remembered unless almost time for next dose. Do NOT double dose.

Corticosteroids

Brand/Generic	Oral & Ocular– prednisone (Rayos) IV – methylprednisolone (A-Methapred) Intranasal – fluticasone (Avamys) Inhaled – beclomethasone (Qvar) Topical& Intra-articular – triamcinolone (Aristocort)
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Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Suppresses inflammation & the normal immune response.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Used as an anti-inflammatory or an immunosuppressant medication.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggression • Agitation • Fast, slow, pounding, or irregular heartbeat/pulse
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stopping abruptly may result in adrenal insufficiency. • Instruct pt to inform health care professional promptly if severe abdominal pain or tarry stools occur.

Penicillin

Brand/Generic	Orals – amoxicillin, ampicillin (Augmentin, Amoxil) IM – procaine penicillin G (Bicillin, Wycillin) IV – Penicillin K (pfiizerpen) Extended spectrum – IV – piperacillin (Zosyn) Penicillinase resistant – IV – methicillin (Staphcillin), nafcillin (Unipen)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Inhibits synthesis of bacteria's cell wall.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	To treat different types of infection caused by bacteria.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea/vomiting • Diarrhea • Stomach pain
Nursing Considerations or Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best absorbed on an empty stomach, amoxicillin better with food, fruit juice increased breakdown. • Instruct pt to take medication around the clock & to

(1 or 2)	finish drug completely as directed, even if feeling better.
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Cephalosporins

Brand/Generic	1 st gen – cefazolin (Ancef), cephalixin (Keflex) 2 nd gen – cefoxitin (Mefoxin), cefotaxime (Cefotan) 3 rd gen – ceftriaxone (Rocephin), ceftazidime (Fortaz), cefotaxime (Claforin) 4 th gen – cefepime (Maxipime), cefdinir (Omnicef)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Breakdown bacteria cell wall.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	To treat a wide variety of bacterial infections.
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stomach discomfort • Nausea/vomiting • Diarrhea
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Drug interactions with NSAIDs and anticoagulants.

Brand/Generic	Betalactams (augmentin, cephalosporins, macrolides) Cephalexin (Keflex)
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Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Interferes with bacterial cell wall synthesis by inhibiting the final step in the cross-linking of peptidoglycan strands.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	To treat streptococcal pharyngitis, and skin and skin-structure infections
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Chills Edema Dyspnea Abdominal cramps
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Monitor patient's BUN and serum creatinine levels to detect early signs of nephrotoxicity. Buttermilk and yogurt can help maintain intestinal flora and decrease diarrhea during therapy

Brand/Generic	Aminoglycosides (vancomycin, gentamycin) Vancomycin/Vancocin
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Inhibits bacterial RNA and cell wall synthesis; alters permeability of bacterial membranes, causing cell wall lysis and cell death
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	To treat bacterial endocarditis To treat pseudomembranous colitis
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Hypotension Insomnia Dyspnea Back pain
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Assess hearing during therapy. Transient or permanent ototoxicity may occur. Instruct patient to notify prescriber if patient develops persistent or severe diarrhea

Brand/Generic	Fluoroquinolones (ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin) Ciprofloxacin/ Cipro XR
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Inhibits the enzyme DNA gyrase, which is responsible for the unwinding and supercoiling of bacterial DNA before it replicates.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	To treat skin and soft tissue infections To treat UTI caused by susceptible organisms To treat bone and joint infections
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Drowsiness Depression Insomnia Oral candidiasis Abdominal pain
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Obtain culture and sensitivity test results, as ordered, before giving ciprofloxacin Encourage patient to drink plenty of fluids during therapy to prevent crystalluria

Brand/Generic	Tetracyclines (doxycycline, tetracycline) Doxycycline/Oracea
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Blocks the binding of aminoacyl transfer RNA to messenger RNA, thus inhibiting bacterial protein synthesis
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	To treat inflammatory lesions To treat all infections caused by susceptible organisms
Common Side Effects/Adverse	Headache Anorexia

Reactions (3 most common)	Diarrhea Visual disturbance
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Monitor patient closely for diarrhea, which may indicate pseudomembranous colitis Inform patient that urine may become dark yellow or brown during therapy.
Brand/Generic	Sulfonamides (Bactrim DS aka trimethoprim sulfamethxazole) Sulfamethxazole/Bactrim
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Inhibits bacterial dihydrofolate reductase, a critical enzyme that catalyzes the formation of tetrahydro folic acid - in doing so, it prevents the synthesis of bacterial DNA
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	To treat wide variety of infections such as middle ear, urine, respiratory and intestinal infections
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Dizziness Headache Diarrhea Lethargy
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Taken with a full glass (8 ounces) of water. Several additional glasses of water should be taken every day, unless otherwise directed by your doctor. Drinking extra water will help to prevent some unwanted effects.

Brand/Generic	Pyridium/ Phenazopyridine
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Exerts a local anesthetic effect on urinary tract mucosa as drug is excreted in urine. Exact mechanism is unknown.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug)	To relieve burning and pain on urination, and urinary frequency and urgency

is usually prescribed	
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Headache Indigestion Nausea/Vomiting Pruritus Rash
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Be aware that phenazopyridine treatment should be limited to 2 days Advise patient to take drug with meals if GI distress develops

Brand/Generic	Nitrofurantoin/ Macrobid
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Alters and inactivates bacterial ribosomal proteins and other macromolecules.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	To treat acute cystitis To suppress chronic cystitis Treat and prevent UTI infections
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Chills Confusion Headache Diarrhea Loss of appetite
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Don't break or crush capsules Give drug with food or milk to avoid staining teeth Explain to the patient that urine may turn brown, orange, or rust-colored during therapy.

Brand/Generic	Macrolides (azithromycin, clarithromycin, erythromycin) Azithromycin/Zmax, Zithromax
Mechanism of	Binds to a ribosomal subunit of susceptible

Action (brief description use your own words)	bacteria, blocking peptide translocation and inhibiting RNA- dependent protein synthesis.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	To treat various types of infections, including pink eye. To treat pelvic inflammatory disease
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Dizziness Abdominal pain Arrhythmias Leukopenia
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Monitor elderly patients closely for arrhythmias because they are more susceptible to drug effects on the QT interval. Warn patient that abdominal pain and loose, watery stools may occur.
Brand/Generic	Metronidazole/ Flagyl
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Damages DNA's helical structure and breaks its strands, which causes cell death
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	To treat bacterial infections of the skin, vagina, stomach, joints or respiratory tract
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Confusion Depression Dry mouth Abdominal cramps Dyspnea
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Use cautiously in patients with CNS diseases. If patient reports dry mouth, suggest ice chips or sugarless hard candy or gum.

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Brand/Generic	Clindamycin/Cleocin
Mechanism of Action (brief description uses your own words)	Inhibits protein synthesis in susceptible bacteria, which causes bacterial cell to die
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	To treat skin and vaginal infection
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Thrombophlebitis Polyarthritus Glossitis Hypotension Diarrhea Neutropenia
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Use this drug cautiously in patients who have a history of asthma, GI disease. Check I.V. site often for phlebitis and irritation. Advise patient to take oral drug with food to reduce GI distress.

Brand/Generic	Antivirals (-cyclovir's) Zofirax/ acyclovir
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	lowering the ability of the herpes virus to multiply in the body
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Treatment of initial episodes of herpes genitalis acute treatment of herpes zoster (shingles) and varicella (chickenpox)
Common Side Effects/Adverse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headache • Nausea

Reactions (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vomiting
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dosage should be reduced in patients with impaired renal function • Therapy should be initiated as soon as possible after a diagnosis of chickenpox or herpes zoster, or at the first sign or symptoms of an outbreak of genital herpes

Brand/Generic	Tamiflu / Oseltamivir Phosphate
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Blocks the actions of influenza virus types A and B in the body. Tamiflu is used to treat flu symptoms caused by influenza virus in people have had symptoms for less than 2 days
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	For treatment of influenza A and B
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea • Vomiting • Headache
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dosage adjustments recommended for end-stage renal disease pts since these individuals will have higher blood levels of oseltamivir carboxylate • Pregnant women are at higher risk of severe complications from influenza, which may lead to adverse pregnancy and/or fetal outcomes

Brand/Generic	HAART Drugs tenofovir/emtricitabine (Truvada)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Works by blocking an enzyme called reverse transcriptase, which HIV uses to copy its genetic material and reproduce
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adults and pediatric patients weighing at least 17 kg
Common Side	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depression

Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diarrhea • Sinusitis
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients and uninfected individuals should remain under the care of a physician when using • It is important to take TRUVADA on a regular dosing schedule to avoid missing doses

Brand/Generic	-azoles (fluconazole, clotrimazole) Diflucan/ fluconazole
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Treat and prevent fungal infections
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Used to treat fungal infections, yeast infections, and meningitis caused by fungus
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headache • Diarrhea • Dizziness
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not drive a car or operate machinery until you know how this medication affects you • Continue to take fluconazole until your doctor tells you that you should stop, even if you feel better

Brand/Generic	Mycostatin (nystatin)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Works by stopping the growth of fungi that cause infection
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Used to treat fungal infections of the inside of the mouth and lining of the stomach and intestines
Common Side Effects/Adverse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stomach bloating or pain • Diarrhea

Reactions (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not known whether nystatin is excreted in human milk. Caution should be exercised when nystatin is prescribed for a nursing woman • If irritation or sensitization develops, treatment should be discontinued and appropriate measures taken as indicated

Brand/Generic	Gris Peg / Griseofulvin
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	prevents fungal cells from dividing and multiplying
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Used to treat skin infections such as jock itch, athlete's foot, and ringworm; and fungal infections of the scalp, fingernails, and toenails
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headache • Upset stomach • Vomiting
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevations in AST, ALT, bilirubin, and jaundice have been reported with griseofulvin use, pts should be monitored • If severe skin reactions occur, griseofulvin should be discontinued

Brand/Generic	Vermox (mebendazole)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Works by killing the worms (roundworm, hookworm, pinworm)
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Used to treat several types of worm infections
Common Side Effects/Adverse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stomach pain • Diarrhea

Reactions (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vomiting
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agranulocytosis and neutropenia have been reported with mebendazole use at higher doses • Convulsions have been reported in infants below the age of 1 year

Brand/Generic	Nix Complete (permethrin)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Works by killing lice and mites
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Used to treat scabies and lice
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Itching of skin or scalp • Redness of skin or scalp • Rash
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have scabies, tell your doctor if you have a sexual partner. This person should also be treated • Be sure to check everyone in your immediate family for head lice if another family member is being treated for lice

Brand/Generic	Opioids Oxycontin (oxycodone)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Works by changing the way the brain and nervous system respond to pain
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Used for moderate to severe pain
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constipation • Nausea • Sleepiness

(3 most common)	
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prolonged use during pregnancy can cause withdrawal symptoms in your newborn baby that could be life-threatening if not recognized and treated • Tell your doctor what herbal products you are taking, especially St. John's wort and tryptophan

Brand/Generic	Narcan (naloxone)
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	A medication designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose. It is an opioid antagonist—meaning that it binds to opioid receptors and can reverse and block the effects of other opioids
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	It can treat narcotic overdose in an emergency situation
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypotension • Hypertension • Ventricular tachycardia and fibrillation
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medication can be given by intranasal spray, intramuscular, subcutaneous, or intravenous injection • Intravenous injection every two to three minutes is recommended in emergencies