

## N322 Drug Card Template

<b>Brand/Generic</b>	levothyroxine/Levoxyl
<b>Mechanism of Action</b> (brief description use your own words)	Replacement of or supplementation to thyroid hormones.
<b>Reasons Prescribed</b> (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Replaces or provides more thyroid hormone, which is normally produced by the thyroid gland.
<b>Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions</b> (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased appetite</li> <li>• Weight loss</li> <li>• Heat sensitivity</li> </ul>
<b>Nursing Considerations or Teaching</b> (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess apical pulse &amp; BP prior to &amp; periodically during drug therapy. Assess for tachyarrhythmias &amp; chest pain.</li> <li>• Explain to patient that medication does NOT cure hypothyroidism; it provides a thyroid hormone supplement. Therapy is lifelong.</li> </ul>

<b>Brand/Generic</b>	insulin, regular/Humulin R
<b>Mechanism of Action</b> (brief description use your own words)	Lowers blood glucose by stimulating glucose uptake in skeletal muscle and fat, inhibiting hepatic glucose production.
<b>Reasons Prescribed</b> (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	To improve & control blood sugar.
<b>Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions</b> (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sweating</li> <li>• Fast heart rate</li> <li>• Tingling in hands, feet, lips, or tongue</li> </ul>
<b>Nursing Considerations or Teaching</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess patient periodically for symptoms of hypoglycemia</li> <li>• Emphasize the importance of compliance with</li> </ul>

(1 or 2)	nutritional guidelines & regular exercise as directed by health care professional.
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<b>Brand/Generic</b>	Metformin/Glucophage
<b>Mechanism of Action</b> (brief description use your own words)	Decreases hepatic glucose production.
<b>Reasons Prescribed</b> (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Maintain blood glucose.
<b>Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions</b> (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical weakness</li> <li>• Diarrhea</li> <li>• Gas (flatulence)</li> </ul>
<b>Nursing Considerations or Teaching</b> (1 or 2)	Patients who have been well controlled on metformin who develop illness or laboratory abnormalities should be assessed for ketoacidosis or lactic acidosis. Assess serum electrolytes, ketones, glucose, and, if indicated, blood pH, lactate, pyruvate, and metformin levels. If either form of acidosis is present, discontinue metformin immediately and treat acidosis

<b>Brand/Generic</b>	Glucagon/GlucaGen
<b>Mechanism of Action</b> (brief description use your own words)	Stimulates hepatic production of glucose from glycogen stores. Relaxes the musculature of the GI tract, temporarily inhibiting movement.
<b>Reasons Prescribed</b> (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Increase in blood glucose.
<b>Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions</b> (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nausea</li> <li>• Vomiting</li> <li>• Temporary changes in BP</li> </ul>
<b>Nursing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess signs for hypoglycemia prior to &amp; periodically</li> </ul>

<b>Considerations or Teaching</b> (1 or 2)	during therapy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach pt. &amp; family S/S of hypoglycemia. Instruct pt. to take oral glucose as soon as symptoms of hypoglycemia occur – glucagon is reserved for episodes when pt. is unable to swallow b/c of decreased LOC.</li> </ul>
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<b>Brand/Generic</b>	short-acting insulin: Humulin R, Novulin R long-acting insulin: Lantus, Levemir intermediate-acting insulin: Humulin N, Novolin NPH
<b>Mechanism of Action</b> (brief description use your own words)	Lowers blood glucose by stimulating glucose uptake in skeletal muscle and fat, inhibiting hepatic glucose production.
<b>Reasons Prescribed</b> (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	To improve blood sugar control
<b>Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions</b> (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chills, cold sweats</li> <li>• Blurred vision</li> <li>• Dizziness, drowsiness</li> </ul>
<b>Nursing Considerations or Teaching</b> (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instruct pt. on proper technique for administration. Include type of insulin, equipment, storage, and place to discard syringes. Discuss the importance of selection &amp; rotation of injection sites, and compliance with therapeutic regimen.</li> <li>• Instruct pt. on S/S of hypoglycemia &amp; hyperglycemia &amp; what to do if they occur.</li> </ul>

<b>Brand/Generic</b>	Glipizide/Glucotrol
<b>Mechanism of Action</b> (brief description use your own words)	Lowers blood sugar by stimulating the release of insulin from the pancreas and increasing the sensitivity to insulin at receptor sites.
<b>Reasons Prescribed</b> (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Help control blood sugar levels by helping the pancreas produce insulin.

<b>Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions</b> (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diarrhea, constipation, gas</li> <li>• Dizziness, drowsiness</li> <li>• Tremors</li> </ul>
<b>Nursing Considerations or Teaching</b> (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor CBC periodically during therapy. Report decrease in blood counts promptly.</li> <li>• Explain to pt. that this medication controls hyperglycemia but does NOT cure diabetes. Therapy is long term.</li> </ul>

<b>Brand/Generic</b>	Phenytoin/Dilantin
<b>Mechanism of Action</b> (brief description use your own words)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limits the spread of seizures activity and the start of new seizures by regulating voltage-dependent calcium and sodium channels in neurons</li> </ul>
<b>Reasons Prescribed</b> (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To treat tonic-clonic or psychomotor seizures in patients who have had no prior treatment</li> </ul>
<b>Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions</b> (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confusion</li> <li>• Dizziness</li> <li>• Depression</li> <li>• Lethargy</li> </ul>
<b>Nursing Considerations or Teaching</b> (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shake oral suspension before measuring dose and use a calibrated measuring device</li> <li>• Urge patient to avoid alcohol during therapy.</li> </ul>

<b>Brand/Generic</b>	Valproic acid/Depakene
<b>Mechanism of Action</b> (brief description use your own words)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May decrease seizure activity by blocking reuptake of gamma-aminobutyric acid</li> </ul>
<b>Reasons Prescribed</b> (conditions in which this drug is usually)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To treat as monotherapy or as adjunct simple and complex absence seizure</li> </ul>

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<b>Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions</b> (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depression</li> <li>• Dizziness</li> <li>• Hypotension</li> </ul>
<b>Nursing Considerations or Teaching</b> (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor liver enzymes, as ordered. Notify prescriber immediately if hepatotoxicity is suspected and if confirmed expect drug to be discontinued immediately.</li> </ul>
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<b>Brand/Generic</b>	Gabapentin/Neurontin
<b>Mechanism of Action</b> (brief description use your own words)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structurally like GABA and GABA inhibits the rapid firing of neurons associated with seizures</li> </ul>
<b>Reasons Prescribed</b> (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To treat moderate to severe primary restless leg syndrome</li> <li>• To treat partial seizures</li> </ul>
<b>Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions</b> (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abnormal vision</li> <li>• Agitation</li> <li>• Abdominal pain</li> </ul>
<b>Nursing Considerations or Teaching</b> (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give drug at least 2 hours after an antacid</li> <li>• Monitor renal function test as ordered</li> </ul>

<b>Brand/Generic</b>	Flexeril/Cyclobenzaprine
<b>Mechanism of Action</b> (brief description use your own words)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acts in the brain stem to reduce or abolish tonic muscle hyperactivity</li> </ul>
<b>Reasons Prescribed</b> (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relief of muscle spasm associated with acute, painful musculoskeletal conditions</li> </ul>

<b>Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions</b> (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confusion</li> <li>• Drowsiness</li> <li>• Blurred vision</li> </ul>
<b>Nursing Considerations or Teaching</b> (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take safety precautions to prevent falls if patient is confused, dizzy or weak</li> <li>• Urge patient to avoid alcohol and other CNS depressant during therapy.</li> </ul>

<b>Brand/Generic</b>	Levodopa/Carbidopa
<b>Mechanism of Action</b> (brief description use your own words)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It crosses into the blood-brain barrier, once it crosses, it converted to dopamine, improves nerve conduction and assist the movement disorders.</li> </ul>
<b>Reasons Prescribed</b> (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To treat Parkinson's disease</li> </ul>
<b>Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions</b> (3 most common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nausea</li> <li>• Dizziness</li> <li>• Headache</li> </ul>
<b>Nursing Considerations or Teaching</b> (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid taking iron supplement or eating a diet that is high in protein. This can make it harder for your body to digest and absorb this drug.</li> </ul>

<b>Brand/Generic</b>	Anacin Advanced Headache Formula/Excedrin (a combo of acetaminophen, aspirin, and
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	caffeine)
<b>Mechanism of Action</b> (brief description use your own words)	Works as a pain reliever, inflammation reducer, fever reducer and improves blood flow
<b>Reasons Prescribed</b> (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Used to treat pain caused by tension headaches, migraine headaches, muscle aches, menstrual cramps, arthritis, toothaches, the common cold, or nasal congestion.
<b>Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions</b> (3 most common)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Feeling confused</b></li> <li>2. <b>Tired or weakness</b></li> <li>3. <b>Ringing in ears</b></li> </ol>
<b>Nursing Considerations or Teaching</b> (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not give Excedrin to a child or teen with fever, flu symptoms, or chicken pox. Can cause Reyes syndrome</b></li> <li>• <b>May cause stomach or intestinal bleeding, which can be fatal</b></li> </ul>

<b>Brand/Generic</b>	Aricept/donepezil
<b>Mechanism of Action</b> (brief description use your own words)	improves the function of nerve cells in the brain. It works by preventing the breakdown of a chemical called acetylcholine
<b>Reasons Prescribed</b> (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Used to treat mild to moderate dementia caused by Alzheimer's disease
<b>Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions</b> (3 most common)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Diarrhea</b></li> <li>2. <b>Loss of appetite</b></li> <li>3. <b>Muscle cramps</b></li> </ol>
<b>Nursing Considerations or Teaching</b> (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Medicine may impair thinking or reactions</b></li> <li>• <b>Drug should not be used during pregnancy, unless the benefit outweighs the risk to the fetus</b></li> </ul>

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<b>Brand/Generic</b>	Carbatrol/carbamazepine
<b>Mechanism of Action</b> (brief description use your own words)	An anticonvulsant, it works by decreasing nerve impulses that cause seizures and nerve pain, such as trigeminal neuralgia and diabetic neuropathy.
<b>Reasons Prescribed</b> (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Used to treat bipolar disorder
<b>Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions</b> (3 most common)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Blurred vision</b></li> <li>2. <b>Continuous back and forth eye movements</b></li> <li>3. <b>Actions that are out of control</b></li> </ol>
<b>Nursing Considerations or Teaching</b> (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Serious and sometimes fatal dermatologic reactions, Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis, have been reported</b></li> <li>• <b>Obtain pretreatment hematological testing and periodically monitor CBC</b></li> </ul>

<b>Brand/Generic</b>	Ativan/lorazepam
<b>Mechanism of Action</b> (brief description use your own words)	affects chemicals in the brain that may be unbalanced in people with anxiety
<b>Reasons Prescribed</b> (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	used to treat anxiety disorders and seizure disorders
<b>Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions</b> (3 most common)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Drowsiness</b></li> <li>2. <b>Relaxed and calm</b></li> <li>3. <b>Sleepiness</b></li> </ol>

<b>Nursing Considerations or Teaching</b> (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Concomitant use of benzodiazepines and opioids may result in profound sedation</b></li> <li>• <b>Elderly patients should be told that Ativan injection may make them very sleepy for a period longer than 6-8 hours following surgery</b></li> </ul>
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<b>Brand/Generic</b>	Keppra/levetiracetam
<b>Mechanism of Action</b> (brief description use your own words)	An anti-epileptic drug that works by affecting the transmission of nerve signals in the brain
<b>Reasons Prescribed</b> (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Used to treat partial onset seizures in adults and children who are at least 1 month old and for tonic-clonic seizures in people who are at least 6 years old, and myoclonic seizures in people who are at least 12 years old
<b>Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions</b> (3 most common)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Aggressive or angry</b></li> <li>2. <b>Anxiety</b></li> <li>3. <b>Change in personality</b></li> </ol>
<b>Nursing Considerations or Teaching</b> (1 or 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Keppra may cause behavioral abnormalities and psychotic symptoms</b></li> <li>• <b>Antiepileptic drugs may increase the risk of suicidal thoughts and behavior</b></li> </ul>