

N322 Drug Card Template

Brand/Generic	Synthroid/levothyroxine
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Replaces thyroid hormone (T4)
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Hypothyroidism
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Insomnia, Heat Intolerance, Tachycardia
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Take 30-60 minutes before first meal of the day May take 6-8 weeks to achieve full effect

Brand/Generic	Insulin
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Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Replacement hormone normally produced in the pancreas—it breaks down carbohydrates into energy and acts as a key to let those molecules out of blood into cells so they can be used
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Type 1 diabetes, sometimes Type 2 diabetes
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Hypoglycemia—including dizziness, confusion, and sweating, Injection site reactions (redness, pain)
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Good once removed from refrigerator at room temperature for 30 days. Best absorption when injected into the abdomen. Rotate sites with every injection.

Brand/Generic	Glucophage/ metformin
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Slows down glucose production in the liver and blocks the absorption of sugar.

Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Type 2 DM
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Diarrhea, Nausea, Decreased Appetite
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Do not drink alcohol with this medication. Diarrhea can be a severe side effect. This usually lessens after a couple of weeks.

Brand/Generic	Glucagen/glucagon
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Stimulates the liver to change stored glycogen into glucose and release it into the blood so that it can be used in the body

Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Severe hypoglycemia
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Vomiting, Seizure Activity, Tachycardia
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	This medication is injected intramuscularly into diabetics who are unable to swallow to raise blood sugar levels (unconscious) Patients should still be seen in the emergency department following administration

Brand/Generic	Insulin (part 2)
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Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Rapid Acting- Humalog/novolog- 15 min onset, 1 hr peak, 3-4 hr duration Fast Acting- Regular, Humulin R- 30 min onset, 2 hr peak, 6 hr duration Intermediate-NPH, Humulin N- 2 hr onset, 12 hr peak, 24 hr duration Long Acting-Lantus, Levemir, Baslagar, Toujeo- 6-8 hr onset, no peak, 24 hour duration Mix- 50/50, 75/25, or 70/30- Differing onset, peaks, durations dependent on which insulins are mixed.
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Type 1 DM
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Hypoglycemia- Dizziness, Confusion, Sweating
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Rotate injection sites. Expiration date 30 days after removed from refrigerator (keep at room temp).

Brand/Generic	Glucotrol/ glipizide
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	2nd gen sulfonylurea- increases insulin production in the pancreas and increase cellular sensitivity to insulin

Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Type 2 DM
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Hypoglycemia- Dizziness, Confusion, Cool/Clammy Skin
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Take 15-30 minutes before meals

Brand/Generic	Dilantin/ phenytoin
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Inhibits certain sodium channels to reduce seizure activity

Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Epilepsy, Status Epilepticus
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Gingival hyperplasia, Hypotension, Ataxia
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	If given IV, this medication must be given SLOWLY and ALONE Take folic acid supplement with this medication

Brand/Generic	Depakote/ valproic acid
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Blocks both sodium and calcium channels to prevent neurons from firing

Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Epilepsy, Other Seizure Disorders
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	GI upset, Pancreatitis, Hepatotoxicity
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Check hepatic and renal functions regularly Never stop abruptly Do not use if pregnant or planning to become pregnant

Brand/Generic	Neurontin/ gabapentin
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Enhances GABA to block sodium channels to neurons

Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Partial seizures, mood stabilization, neuropathic pain relief
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Dizziness, Hallucinations, Dyspnea
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Stopping abruptly may increase seizure activity in the brain Teach pt not to drive until they know how medication affects them

Brand/Generic	Flexeril/ cyclobenzaprine
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Relaxes muscles by blocking pain signals from reaching the CNS

Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Muscle injury, TMJ, muscle spasms, back pain
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Dizziness, Drowsiness, Constipation
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Do not drink alcohol or take any other CNS depressants while using this medication

Brand/Generic	Sinemet/ carbidopa-levodopa
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Levodopa is converted to dopamine, which serves as a neurotransmitter. Carbidopa slows destruction of dopamine.

Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Parkinson's Disease
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Dry Mouth, Involuntary Movements, Anxiety
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	This medication can lead to hepatotoxicity. Monitor LFT This drug MUST be taken at the same time each day High protein meals will decrease the drug's effectiveness

Brand/Generic	Excedrin/ acetaminophen-aspirin-caffeine
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Acetaminophen blocks pain receptors in the CNS, aspirin reduces inflammation, and caffeine amplifies the effects of these medications

Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Migraines, Severe Headache
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Tachycardia, Insomnia, Nausea
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Take at the earliest sign of a migraine

Brand/Generic	Donepezil/ aricept
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Prolongs effects of acetylcholine to improve memory

Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Mild-to-moderate dementia from Alzheimer's Disease
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Headache, Hypertension, Muscle Cramps
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	This medication slows the progression of the disease but is not a cure

Brand/Generic	Tegretol/ carbamazepine
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Blocks sodium channels to stabilize hyperexcitability and inhibit repetitional neuronal firing

Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Epilepsy, Treatment for Partial Seizures in children 4-16
Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Dizziness, Drowsiness, Headache
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Can cause Stevens-Johnson Syndrome Do not drink alcohol while using this medication

Brand/Generic	Ativan/ lorazepam
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Depresses Central Nervous System to produce anxiolytic effects—Acts on GABA to inhibit neuronal firing
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Anxiety, Conscious Sedation, Muscle Relaxer

Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Constipation, Lethargy, Blurred Vision
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Can be addictive Do not drink grapefruit while using this medication

Brand/Generic	Keppra/ levetiracetam
Mechanism of Action (brief description use your own words)	Inhibits burst firing of neurons without affecting normal excitability
Reasons Prescribed (conditions in which this drug is usually prescribed)	Partial/ adjunct seizures

Common Side Effects/Adverse Reactions (3 most common)	Dizziness, Weakness, Photosensitivity
Nursing Considerations or Teaching (1 or 2)	Use in combination with ketogenic diet for better seizure control