

Generic Brand  
Diltiazem (Cardizem)

Classification: Calcium channel blockers

Indication: Hypertension, Angina, and Dysrhythmias

Side effects/adverse reactions:

- Orthostatic hypotension
- Dizziness
- Flushing
- Headache
- Peripheral edema
- Constipation

Nursing Considerations:

- Contraindications: Hypersensitivity; sick sinus syndrome, recent MI or pulmonary congestion
- Orthostatic hypotension: change position slowly
- Educate to not stop med. suddenly causes rebound hypertension
- Do NOT drink grapefruit juice (↓BP)
- ↑ Fiber for constipation • Leg elevation to prevent edema

Generic Brand  
Amlodipine (Norvasc)

Classification: Calcium channel blockers

Indication: Hypertension, Chronic Stable Angina

Side effects/adverse reactions:

- Peripheral edema
- Flushing
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Constipation
- Orthostatic Hypertension

Nursing Considerations:

- Contraindicated: Hypersensitivity; Systolic BP < 90 mmHg, pregnancy
- Monitor BP & pulse
- Monitor I & O
- Monitor Angina characteristics
- Labs: Ca<sup>+</sup> NOT affected by calcium channel blockers
- Educate NOT TO STOP Med suddenly b/c rebound hypertension
- Change ~~at~~ slowly b/c orthostatic hypotension

Generic  
Simvastatin (Zocor) Brand

Classification: HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors (statin)

Indication: Hypercholesterolemia, Hyperlipidemia, Prevention for CAD, myocardial infarction, stroke

Side effects/adverse reactions:

- Headache
- Constipation
- Hyperglycemia
- Nausea
- Cramping
- Dizziness
- Ab. pain

Nursing Considerations:

- Contraindications: Hypersensitivity; Concurrent use of strong CYP3A4 inhibitors (protease inhi), Pregnancy
- Vitamin A & D given in a water-soluble
- Educate to ↑ fluids, fibers, <sup>exercise</sup> regularly, & use stool softener

Generic  
Norepinephrine (Levophed) Brand

Classification: Vasopressors

Indication: Hypotension or shock

Side effects/adverse reactions:

- Blurred vision
- Chest pain or discomfort
- Lightheadedness, dizziness, or fainting
- Pounding in ears
- Slow, fast, or irregular  $\heartsuit$  beat

Nursing Considerations:

- Contraindications: mesenteric or peripheral thrombosis
- Monitor BP every 2-3 min until stabilized
- Monitor ECG, cardiac output
- Assess IV site frequently during infusion
- Toxicity & overdose

Generic  
Furosemide (Lasix)

Classification: Loop diuretics

Indication: Edema, Hepatic impairment,  
Renal disease, and Hypertension

Side effects/adverse reactions:

- Peeing more than usual
- Feeling thirsty
- Dry mouth
- Headaches
- Confusion or dizzy
- Dehydration
- Fluid & Electrolyte imbalances

Nursing Considerations:

- Contraindications: Hypersensitivity; cross-sensitivity w/ thiazides & sulfonamides, hepatic coma or anuria (kidneys produce no urine), alcohol poisoning
- Fluid status assessment (daily weight, I/O's)
- Monitor BP & pulse
- Assess pef for tinnitus & hearing loss
- Assess allergies to sulfonamides • Monitor Electrolytes

Generic  
Metoprolol (Lopressor)

Classification: Beta blockers

Indication: Hypertension, Angina Pectoris, Prevent MI

Side effects/adverse reactions:

- Bradycardia, HF, Pulmonary edema
- Headaches
- Tired, dizzy, or weak
- Stomach pain

Nursing Considerations:

- Contraindications: uncompensated HF; pulmonary edema, bradycardia,  $\heartsuit$  block, or sinus syndrome
- Monitor BP, ECG, & pulse
- Monitor I/O
- Assess Angina characteristics & attacks
- Labs: BUN, Serum lipoprotein, potassium, triglyceride, & uric acid

Generic (Brand)  
Atenolol (Tenormin)

Classification: Beta blockers

Indication: Hypertension,  
Angina pectoris, Prevention of MI

Side effects/adverse reactions:

- Tiredness, dizzy, lightheadedness
- Bradycardia, HF, pulmonary edema
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

Nursing Considerations:

- Contraindications: Uncompensated HF; Pulmonary edema; Cardiogenic shock; Bradycardia or  $\downarrow$  block
- Monitor BP, ECG, and pulse frequently
- Monitor I&O & daily weights (dyspnea, rales, crackles, peripheral edema, JVD)
- Angina monitored
- Toxicity & overdose S/S ( $\downarrow$ HR, severe dizziness or fainting, bluish fingernails)

Generic (Brand)  
Nitroprusside (nitropress)

Classification: Vasodilator

Indication: Hypertensive crisis,  
Controlled hypotension during anesthesia,  
Cardiac pump failure

Side effects/adverse reactions:

- Chest pain
- Fast pounding heart beat or pulse
- Lightheadedness, dizziness, or fainting

Nursing Considerations:

- Assess BP, HR, & ECG frequently
- Assess for toxicity & overdose, S/S
- Monitor plasma thiocyanate levels daily
- Contraindications: Hypersensitivity;  $\downarrow$  cerebral perfusion

Generic  
Losartan (Cozaar)<sup>Brand</sup>

Classification: Angiotensin II receptor antagonists

Indication: Hypertension, Type 2 Diabetic pts with neuropathy, Prevention of Stroke from HTN & L.V. Hypertrophy.

Side effects/adverse reactions:

- Dizziness
- Edema
- Fatigue
- Angioedema
- Insomnia
- Chest pain

Nursing Considerations:

- Contraindications: Hypersensitivity; Bilateral renal artery stenosis, pregnancy
- Assess BP, pulse, angioedema (dyspnea, facial swelling)
- Monitor renal function Labs: BUN, Serum creatinine, K<sup>+</sup>, Hgb, hct

Captopril (Capoten)

Classification: ACE inhibitors (angiotensin converting enzyme)

Indication: Hypertension, CHF, & Kidney problems

Side effects/adverse reactions:

- |                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| • Angioedema (A)              | • Orthostatic |
| • Cough (Pns) (C)             | • Hypotension |
| • Elevated K <sup>+</sup> (E) | • Dizziness   |

Nursing Considerations:

- Contraindications: pregnancy, renal artery stenosis, PMH allergy to ACE inhibitors, PMH of angioneurotic edema
- Assess BP & pulse routinely
- Monitor for hypotension
- Monitor K<sup>+</sup> levels
- Assess for angioedema
- Educate to not suddenly STOP med. it can cause rebound hypertension