

Nursing Pharmacology Cheat Sheet

Drug Class	Medication Name	Common Uses	Typical Dosage	Common Side Effects	Special Nursing Considerations
Analgesics	Acetaminophen (Tylenol)	Pain, Fever	325-650 mg every 4-6 hours	Nausea, Rash	Monitor liver function with prolonged use
	Ibuprofen (Advil)	Pain, Inflammation, Fever	200-400 mg every 4-6 hours	GI upset, Dizziness	Assess for signs of GI bleeding, renal function
Antibiotics	Amoxicillin	Bacterial Infections	500 mg every 8 hours	Diarrhea, Rash	Check for allergic reactions, monitor for superinfection
	Ciprofloxacin	Bacterial Infections	250-500 mg every 12 hours	GI upset, Tendonitis	Monitor for tendon pain, avoid in pregnancy
Anticoagulants	Warfarin (Coumadin)	Blood Clots	2-10 mg daily	Bleeding, Bruising	Monitor INR, educate on vitamin K intake

	Heparin	Blood Clots	Dosage varies	Bleeding, Thrombocytopenia	Monitor aPTT, platelet count, signs of bleeding
Antihypertensives	Lisinopril	High Blood Pressure	10-40 mg daily	Cough, Hyperkalemia	Monitor BP, renal function, potassium levels
	Amlodipine	High Blood Pressure, Angina	5-10 mg daily	Edema, Fatigue	Monitor BP, assess for peripheral edema
Diuretics	Furosemide (Lasix)	Edema, Hypertension	20-80 mg daily	Electrolyte imbalance, Dehydration	Monitor electrolytes, renal function, fluid status
	Hydrochlorothiazide	Edema, Hypertension	12.5-50 mg daily	Electrolyte imbalance, Dizziness	Monitor BP, electrolytes, signs of dehydration
Antidepressants	Sertraline (Zoloft)	Depression, Anxiety	50-200 mg daily	Sexual dysfunction, Insomnia	Monitor for mood changes, suicidal ideation
	Fluoxetine (Prozac)	Depression, OCD	20-60 mg daily	Nausea, Nervousness	Monitor for serotonin syndrome, mood changes
Antipsychotics	Risperidone	Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder	1-6 mg daily	Weight gain, Extrapiramidal symptoms	Monitor for metabolic changes, movement disorders

	Olanzapine (Zyprexa)	Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder	5-20 mg daily	Sedation, Weight gain	Monitor blood glucose, lipid profile
Beta Blockers	Metoprolol	Hypertension, Angina, Heart Failure	25-100 mg daily	Fatigue, Bradycardia	Monitor heart rate, BP, signs of heart failure
	Propranolol	Hypertension, Anxiety, Migraine	40-320 mg daily	Dizziness, Hypotension	Monitor BP, heart rate, respiratory status
Calcium Channel Blockers	Diltiazem	Hypertension, Angina, Arrhythmias	120-360 mg daily	Edema, Constipation	Monitor BP, heart rate, signs of heart failure
	Nifedipine	Hypertension, Angina	30-90 mg daily	Headache, Flushing	Monitor BP, assess for edema, reflex tachycardia

Notes: