

Medication Side Effects

Your doctor has recommended medication to help you get better. Many medications can cause **side effects** (unplanned reactions in the body).

The table below lists medication names next to their side effects. **If you have any of the serious side effects listed for your medication, contact your doctor or call 911 right away** (see box at right).

Other serious side effects are also possible. If you have symptoms not listed here or any concerns about your medications, talk to your medical team.

NOTE: All medications have the potential to cause an allergic reaction. **Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency treatment facility if you have:**

- Difficulty breathing
- Uncontrolled bleeding
- Confusion
- Dizziness, lack of coordination or balance
- Sudden weakness or numbness on the face, arm, or leg, especially if on one side of the body
- Trouble seeing
- Swelling of the mouth, tongue, or face

Call your doctor right away if you have any other serious side effects listed with your medication.



Use	Medication: generic name (Brand)	Common side effects	Serious side effects
Prevent or treat bacterial infections (antibiotics)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • amoxicillin (Amoxil) • amoxicillin/clavulanate (Augmentin) • azithromycin (Z-pak) • cephalexin (Keflex) • cefdinir (Omnicef) • ciprofloxacin (Cipro) • clindamycin (Cleocin) • levofloxacin (Levaquin) • metronidazole (Flagyl) • sulfamethoxazole/trimethoprim (Bactrim, Septra) 	<p>Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, sun sensitivity</p> <p>Metronidazole: Metallic taste</p>	<p>Severe diarrhea (more than 3 loose, watery stools in 24 hours), severe rash</p> <p>Azithromycin, levofloxacin: Increased risk of irregular heart rhythm and drug interactions</p>
Bladder control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oxybutynin (Ditropan) • mirabegron (Myrbetriq) • tamsulosin (Flomax) • tolterodine (Detrol) • doxazosin (Cardura, Cardura XL) • terazosin (Hytrin) 	<p>Dizziness, sleepiness, headache</p> <p>Swelling in legs and feet</p>	<p>Low blood pressure</p> <p>Falls</p> <p>Mirabegron: High blood pressure</p>
Blood pressure control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors (lisinopril, enalapril, benazepril) • Angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) (losartan, valsartan, irbesartan) • Beta blockers (carvedilol, metoprolol, labetalol, propranolol) • Calcium channel blockers (amlodipine, diltiazem, nifedipine) 	<p>Dizziness, headache, being tired or weak</p> <p>ACE inhibitors: Cough</p>	<p>Extreme tiredness, passing out, persistent cough, swelling of the face, tongue or lips</p>



Use	Medication: generic name (Brand)	Common side effects	Serious side effects
Prevent or treat blood clots (anticoagulants)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• apixaban (Eliquis)• dabigatran (Pradaxa)• enoxaparin (Lovenox)• heparin• rivaroxaban (Xarelto)• warfarin (Coumadin)	Mild bleeding, bruising	Severe bleeding Black, tarry stools (poop), dark-colored urine (pee) Signs of stroke: drooping face, arm weakness, slurred speech
Bowel care (to prevent or treat constipation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• bisacodyl (Dulcolax)• docusate (Colace)• magnesium citrate• milk of magnesia• polyethylene glycol (Miralax)• senna	Diarrhea, nausea, gas, stomach cramps/pain Senna: Red or orange urine (pee)	
Treat heart failure, fluid retention (edema), or high blood pressure (diuretics or water pills)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• bumetanide (Bumex)• furosemide (Lasix)• hydrochlorothiazide• spironolactone (Aldactone)• torsemide (Demadex)• sacubitril/valsartan (Entresto)	Dizziness, headache, feeling lightheaded Increased need to urinate (pee)	Heart palpitations (heart skipping beats, racing, fluttering, or pounding)
Itching relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• diphenhydramine (Benadryl)• hydroxyzine (Atarax, Vistaril)	Sleepiness, dry mouth, dry eyes, dizziness	Inability to urinate (pee)
Nausea relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• metoclopramide (Reglan)• ondansetron (Zofran)• prochlorperazine (Compazine)• promethazine (Phenergan)	Sleepiness or dizziness ondansetron: Headache	Dry mouth, muscle twitching
Mild pain relief (not opioids)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• acetaminophen (Tylenol)• celecoxib (Celebrex)• ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin)• meloxicam (Mobic)• naproxen (Aleve)	Upset stomach, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting	Celecoxib, ibuprofen, naproxen: Severe back or stomach pain, vomiting blood, vomit that looks like coffee grounds, poop that is bloody or black and sticky like tar
Severe pain relief (opioids)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• hydrocodone/acetaminophen (Norco, Lortab)• morphine (Avinza, Kadian, MS Contin)• oxycodone (Roxicodone, Oxycontin)• oxycodone/acetaminophen (Percocet, Endocet)• tramadol (Ultram)	Sleepiness, constipation, nausea, vomiting, itching, confusion, feeling lightheaded	Extreme sleepiness, difficulty breathing Overdose: pale face, blue lips/nails, intense snoring/gurgling, cold/damp skin, unable to arouse or wake



Use	Medication: generic name (Brand)	Common side effects	Serious side effects
Improve breathing (inhalers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • albuterol (ProAir, Proventil, Ventolin) • beclomethasone (Qvar) • budesonide /formoterol (Symbicort) • fluticasone/salmeterol (Advair, AirDuo) • tiotropium (Spiriva) 	Dry mouth, restlessness Beclomethasone, budesonide/ formoterol, and fluticasone/salmeterol: Yeast infection in mouth/throat (thrush)	albuterol: Shaking in arms or legs, increased or irregular heart rate
Sleep aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quetiapine (Seroquel) • trazodone • zolpidem (Ambien) 	Headache, dizziness, nausea	Seeing things that aren't there, chest pains, confusion, memory loss
Ulcer prevention (control stomach acid or bleeding)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • famotidine (Pepcid) • omeprazole (Prilosec) • pantoprazole (Protonix) 	Headache, nausea, diarrhea	

Notes

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