

# 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 right away.

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.  
 Get medical help right away if:

- Your breathing becomes difficult
- You get a rash or hives

If you have any of the serious side effects that are listed with your medication, contact your doctor immediately.



Use	Medication: generic name (Brand)	Common side effects	Serious side effects
<b>Prevent or treat bacterial infections</b> (antibiotics)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• amoxicillin (Amoxil)</li> <li>• amoxicillin/clavulanate (Augmentin)</li> <li>• azithromycin (Z-pak)</li> <li>• cefazolin (Ancef)</li> <li>• ceftriaxone (Rocephin)</li> <li>• cephalexin (Keflex)</li> <li>• cefdinir (Omnicef)</li> <li>• ciprofloxacin (Cipro)</li> <li>• clindamycin (Cleocin)</li> <li>• levofloxacin (Levaquin)</li> <li>• metronidazole (Flagyl)</li> <li>• sulfamethoxazole/trimethoprim (Bactrim, Septra)</li> <li>• vancomycin (Vancocin)</li> </ul>	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, sun sensitivity  <b>metronidazole:</b> Metallic taste	Severe diarrhea, severe rash
<b>Anxiety control</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• alprazolam (Xanax)</li> <li>• diazepam (Valium)</li> <li>• lorazepam (Ativan)</li> </ul>	Memory problems, fatigue (being tired or weak), sleepiness	
<b>Bladder control</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• oxybutynin (Ditropan)</li> <li>• mirabegron (Myrbetriq)</li> <li>• tamsulosin (Flomax)</li> <li>• tolterodine (Detrol)</li> </ul>	Dizziness, sleepiness, headache	Low blood pressure <b>Myrbetriq:</b> High blood pressure
<b>Blood pressure control</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• amlodipine (Norvasc)</li> <li>• carvedilol (Coreg)</li> <li>• diltiazem (Cardizem)</li> <li>• lisinopril (Prinivil, Zesteril)</li> <li>• losartan (Cozaar)</li> <li>• metoprolol (Toprol, Lopressor)</li> <li>• nifedipine (Procardia)</li> </ul>	Cough, dizziness, headache, being tired or weak	Extreme tiredness, passing out, persistent cough, swelling of the face, tongue or lips
<b>Prevent or treat blood clots</b> (anticoagulants)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apixaban (Eliquis)</li> <li>• dabigatran (Pradaxa)</li> <li>• enoxaparin (Lovenox)</li> <li>• heparin</li> <li>• rivaroxaban (Xarelto)</li> <li>• warfarin (Coumadin)</li> </ul>	Mild bleeding, bruising	Severe bleeding



Use	Medication: generic name (Brand)	Common side effects	Serious side effects
<b>Bowel care</b> (to prevent or treat constipation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>bisacodyl (Dulcolax)</li> <li>docusate (Colace)</li> <li>magnesium citrate</li> <li>milk of magnesia</li> <li>polyethylene glycol (Miralax)</li> <li>senna</li> </ul>	Diarrhea, nausea, gas, stomach cramps/pain <b>senna:</b> Red or orange urine (pee)	
<b>Treat heart failure, edema, or high blood pressure</b> (diuretics or water pills)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>bumetanide (Bumex)</li> <li>furosemide (Lasix)</li> <li>hydrochlorothiazide</li> <li>spironolactone (Aldactone)</li> <li>torseamide (Demadex)</li> </ul>	Dizziness, headache, feeling lightheaded	Heart palpitations (heart skipping beats, racing, fluttering, or pounding)
<b>Itching relief</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>diphenhydramine (Benadryl)</li> <li>hydroxyzine (Atarax, Vistaril)</li> </ul>	Sleepiness, dry mouth, dry eyes, dizziness	Inability to urinate (pee)
<b>Nausea relief</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>metoclopramide (Reglan)</li> <li>ondansetron (Zofran)</li> <li>prochlorperazine (Compazine)</li> <li>promethazine (Phenergan)</li> </ul>	Sleepiness or dizziness	Dry mouth, muscle twitching <b>ondansetron:</b> Headache
<b>Mild pain relief</b> (not opioids)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>acetaminophen (Tylenol)</li> <li>celecoxib (Celebrex)</li> <li>ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin)</li> <li>meloxicam (Mobic)</li> <li>naproxen (Aleve)</li> </ul>	Upset stomach, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting	<b>celecoxib, ibuprofen, naproxen:</b> Severe back or stomach pain, vomiting blood, vomit that looks like coffee grounds, poop that is bloody or black and sticky like tar
<b>Severe pain relief</b> (opioids)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fentanyl (Duragesic)</li> <li>hydrocodone (Norco, Lortab)</li> <li>hydromorphone (Dilaudid)</li> <li>morphine (Avinzo, Kadian, MS Contin)</li> <li>oxycodone (Percocet, Oxycontin)</li> <li>tramadol (Ultram)</li> </ul>	Sleepiness, constipation, nausea, vomiting, itching, confusion, feeling lightheaded	Extreme sleepiness, difficulty breathing
<b>Improve breathing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>albuterol (ProAir, Proventil, Ventolin)</li> <li>beclomethasone (Qvar)</li> <li>budesonide /formoterol (Symbicort)</li> <li>fluticasone/salmeterol (Advair, AirDuo)</li> <li>tiotropium (Spiriva)</li> </ul>	Dry mouth, restlessness, yeast infection in mouth/throat (thrush)	<b>albuterol:</b> Shaking in arms or legs, increased or irregular heart rate
<b>Sleep aid</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>quetiapine (Seroquel)</li> <li>trazodone (Desedryl, Oleptro)</li> <li>zolpidem (Ambien)</li> </ul>	Headache, dizziness, nausea	Seeing things that aren't there, chest pains, confusion, memory loss
<b>Ulcer prevention</b> (control stomach acid or bleeding)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>famotidine (Pepcid)</li> <li>omeprazole (Prilosec)</li> <li>pantoprazole (Protonix)</li> <li>ranitidine (Zantac)</li> </ul>	Headache, nausea, diarrhea	
<b>Vaccine</b> (to prevent flu or pneumonia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>influenza vaccine (Fluvarix)</li> <li>pneumococcal vaccine (Pneumovax, Prevnar)</li> </ul>	Muscle aches, fever	

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