



Common Medications – Staff Revision Guide

Medication recognition, common uses and conditions commonly associated with them

REVISION AID ONLY: A medication may have several indications. Do not assume a diagnosis from a medication list alone. Confirm the indication with the patient/records and follow current clinical guidance.

Blood pressure & heart failure

Medication	Medication group	What it is commonly used for	Conditions commonly associated
Amlodipine	Calcium-channel blocker	Lowers blood pressure; prevents angina	Hypertension; stable/vasospastic angina
Ramipril	ACE inhibitor	Lowers blood pressure; reduces cardiac workload; cardiovascular/renal protection	Hypertension; heart failure; post-MI; cardiovascular risk; kidney disease in selected patients
Lisinopril	ACE inhibitor	Lowers blood pressure; reduces cardiac workload	Hypertension; heart failure; post-MI
Losartan	ARB	Lowers blood pressure; cardiovascular/renal protection	Hypertension; diabetic kidney disease; heart failure in selected patients
Candesartan	ARB	Lowers blood pressure; reduces cardiac workload	Hypertension; heart failure
Bisoprolol	Beta-blocker	Slows heart rate; lowers BP; reduces myocardial workload	Hypertension; heart failure; angina; atrial fibrillation/rate control
Atenolol	Beta-blocker	Slows heart rate and lowers blood pressure	Hypertension; angina; some tachyarrhythmias
Doxazosin	Alpha-blocker	Lowers blood pressure; relaxes prostate/bladder-neck smooth muscle	Hypertension; benign prostatic hyperplasia
Indapamide	Thiazide-like diuretic	Lowers blood pressure by promoting salt/water excretion	Hypertension
Furosemide	Loop diuretic	Removes excess fluid	Heart failure; pulmonary/peripheral oedema; fluid overload
Spironolactone	Potassium-sparing diuretic / aldosterone antagonist	Reduces fluid retention; improves outcomes in selected heart failure patients	Heart failure; oedema/ascites; resistant hypertension; hyperaldosteronism

Blood thinners

Medication	Medication group	What it is commonly used for	Conditions commonly associated
Apixaban	DOAC anticoagulant	Prevents/treats blood clots	Atrial fibrillation; DVT; pulmonary embolism; VTE prevention in selected settings
Rivaroxaban	DOAC anticoagulant	Prevents/treats blood clots	Atrial fibrillation; DVT; pulmonary embolism; VTE prevention
Edoxaban	DOAC anticoagulant	Prevents/treats blood clots	Atrial fibrillation; DVT; pulmonary embolism
Dabigatran	DOAC anticoagulant	Prevents/treats blood clots	Atrial fibrillation; DVT; pulmonary embolism; VTE prevention
Warfarin	Vitamin K antagonist anticoagulant	Prevents/treats blood clots	Atrial fibrillation; DVT/PE; mechanical heart valves and other selected thromboembolic conditions
Clopidogrel	Antiplatelet	Reduces platelet aggregation and arterial clot formation	Previous MI; ischaemic stroke/TIA; peripheral arterial disease; acute coronary syndrome; coronary stent
Aspirin	Antiplatelet	Reduces platelet aggregation	Acute coronary syndrome; previous MI/ischaemic stroke; established cardiovascular disease in selected patients

Angina & coronary disease

Medication	Medication group	What it is commonly used for	Conditions commonly associated
Glyceryl trinitrate (GTN)	Nitrate	Rapidly relieves/prevents angina by vasodilation	Angina; coronary artery disease



Medication	Medication group	What it is commonly used for	Conditions commonly associated
Isosorbide mononitrate	Long-acting nitrate	Prevents angina	Chronic stable angina; coronary artery disease
Diltiazem	Calcium-channel blocker	Reduces cardiac workload and can slow heart rate	Angina; hypertension; selected supraventricular arrhythmias/rate control
Nicorandil	Anti-anginal	Prevents/treats angina	Stable angina; coronary artery disease
Ranolazine	Anti-anginal	Reduces angina symptoms	Stable angina; coronary artery disease

Cholesterol

Medication	Medication group	What it is commonly used for	Conditions commonly associated
Atorvastatin	Statin	Lowers LDL cholesterol and cardiovascular risk	Hypercholesterolaemia; established or increased risk of cardiovascular disease
Simvastatin	Statin	Lowers cholesterol and cardiovascular risk	Hypercholesterolaemia; cardiovascular disease prevention
Rosuvastatin	Statin	Lowers cholesterol and cardiovascular risk	Hypercholesterolaemia; cardiovascular disease prevention
Ezetimibe	Cholesterol absorption inhibitor	Reduces cholesterol absorption	Hypercholesterolaemia; often used with a statin or when statins are unsuitable

Diabetes

Medication	Medication group	What it is commonly used for	Conditions commonly associated
Metformin	Biguanide	Lowers blood glucose and improves insulin sensitivity	Type 2 diabetes; sometimes PCOS
Gliclazide	Sulfonylurea	Stimulates insulin release	Type 2 diabetes
Sitagliptin	DPP-4 inhibitor	Helps regulate insulin/glucagon after meals	Type 2 diabetes
Empagliflozin	SGLT2 inhibitor	Increases urinary glucose excretion; cardiorenal benefits	Type 2 diabetes; heart failure; chronic kidney disease in appropriate patients
Dapagliflozin	SGLT2 inhibitor	Increases urinary glucose excretion; cardiorenal benefits	Type 2 diabetes; heart failure; chronic kidney disease in appropriate patients
Semaglutide	GLP-1 receptor agonist	Improves glucose control; reduces appetite	Type 2 diabetes; obesity/weight management with appropriate licensed preparation
Insulin	Hormone	Replaces/supplements insulin to control blood glucose	Type 1 diabetes; type 2 diabetes requiring insulin; other selected hyperglycaemic states

Thyroid

Medication	Medication group	What it is commonly used for	Conditions commonly associated
Levothyroxine	Thyroid hormone replacement	Replaces deficient thyroid hormone	Hypothyroidism; thyroid hormone replacement after some thyroid treatments/surgery
Carbimazole	Antithyroid medicine	Reduces thyroid hormone production	Hyperthyroidism; Graves' disease

Pain relief

Medication	Medication group	What it is commonly used for	Conditions commonly associated
Paracetamol	Analgesic/antipyretic	Treats pain and fever	Headache; musculoskeletal pain; fever; many mild-moderate painful conditions
Ibuprofen	NSAID	Treats pain and inflammation	Musculoskeletal pain; arthritis; dysmenorrhoea; inflammatory pain
Naproxen	NSAID	Treats pain and inflammation	Arthritis; gout; musculoskeletal pain; dysmenorrhoea
Codeine	Opioid analgesic	Treats pain	Mild-moderate pain when simple analgesia is insufficient



Medication	Medication group	What it is commonly used for	Conditions commonly associated
Co-codamol	Paracetamol + codeine	Combination pain relief	Moderate pain
Tramadol	Opioid analgesic	Treats moderate-severe pain	Acute or chronic pain in selected patients
Morphine	Opioid analgesic	Treats severe pain	Severe acute/chronic pain; palliative care; selected acute coronary situations
Oxycodone	Opioid analgesic	Treats moderate-severe pain	Severe acute/chronic pain; cancer/palliative pain
Gabapentin	Antiseizure / neuropathic pain medicine	Reduces neuropathic pain; prevents seizures	Peripheral neuropathic pain; epilepsy
Pregabalin	Antiseizure / neuropathic pain medicine	Reduces neuropathic pain; prevents seizures	Neuropathic pain; epilepsy; generalised anxiety disorder

Antidepressants & mental health

Medication	Medication group	What it is commonly used for	Conditions commonly associated
Sertraline	SSRI antidepressant	Treats depressive/anxiety-spectrum disorders	Depression; OCD; panic disorder; PTSD; social anxiety
Citalopram	SSRI antidepressant	Treats depression and panic symptoms	Depression; panic disorder
Fluoxetine	SSRI antidepressant	Treats depression and selected related disorders	Depression; OCD; bulimia nervosa
Escitalopram	SSRI antidepressant	Treats depression/anxiety disorders	Depression; panic disorder; social/generalised anxiety; OCD
Mirtazapine	Antidepressant	Treats depression	Major depressive disorder
Venlafaxine	SNRI antidepressant	Treats depression/anxiety disorders	Depression; generalised/social anxiety; panic disorder
Duloxetine	SNRI antidepressant	Treats depression/anxiety and some neuropathic pain	Depression; generalised anxiety; diabetic neuropathic pain
Amitriptyline	Tricyclic antidepressant	Treats depression; lower doses commonly used for pain	Depression; neuropathic pain; migraine/headache prevention

Antibiotics

Medication	Medication group	What it is commonly used for	Conditions commonly associated
Amoxicillin	Penicillin antibiotic	Treats susceptible bacterial infections	Commonly respiratory, ENT, dental and other susceptible infections
Flucloxacillin	Penicillin antibiotic	Treats susceptible staphylococcal infections	Skin/soft-tissue infection; cellulitis; infected wounds
Phenoxymethylpenicillin (Penicillin V)	Penicillin antibiotic	Treats susceptible bacterial infections	Streptococcal throat infections; dental infections and other susceptible infections
Co-amoxiclav	Penicillin + beta-lactamase inhibitor	Broadens antibacterial cover	Respiratory, dental, skin/soft-tissue and other susceptible infections
Clarithromycin	Macrolide antibiotic	Treats susceptible bacterial infections	Respiratory infections; some skin infections; H. pylori regimens
Azithromycin	Macrolide antibiotic	Treats susceptible bacterial infections	Selected respiratory and sexually transmitted infections; some long-term respiratory regimens
Doxycycline	Tetracycline antibiotic	Treats susceptible bacterial infections	Respiratory infections; acne/rosacea; chlamydia and other selected infections
Nitrofurantoin	Urinary antibacterial	Treats lower urinary infection	Uncomplicated lower UTI/cystitis
Trimethoprim	Antibacterial	Treats selected bacterial infections	UTI in selected patients
Metronidazole	Antibacterial/antiprotozoal	Treats anaerobic and selected protozoal infections	Dental/anaerobic infections; bacterial vaginosis; selected GI infections
Cefalexin	Cephalosporin antibiotic	Treats susceptible bacterial infections	UTI; respiratory; skin/soft-tissue and other susceptible infections

Asthma & COPD

Medication	Medication group	What it is commonly used for	Conditions commonly associated
Salbutamol	Short-acting beta-2 agonist (SABA)	Rapid bronchodilation	Asthma; COPD; acute bronchospasm



Medication	Medication group	What it is commonly used for	Conditions commonly associated
Terbutaline	Short-acting beta-2 agonist	Rapid bronchodilation	Asthma; bronchospasm
Beclometasone	Inhaled corticosteroid (ICS)	Reduces airway inflammation	Asthma maintenance/prevention
Budesonide	Inhaled corticosteroid	Reduces airway inflammation	Asthma; selected COPD regimens
Fostair (beclometasone/formoterol)	ICS/LABA inhaler	Reduces inflammation and provides bronchodilation	Asthma; COPD
Symbicort (budesonide/formoterol)	ICS/LABA inhaler	Reduces inflammation and provides bronchodilation	Asthma; COPD
Seretide (fluticasone/salmeterol)	ICS/LABA inhaler	Maintenance anti-inflammatory/bronchodilator therapy	Asthma; COPD
Montelukast	Leukotriene receptor antagonist	Helps prevent/control asthma symptoms	Asthma; exercise-induced bronchoconstriction in selected patients
Ipratropium	Short-acting antimuscarinic	Bronchodilation	COPD; acute severe asthma/bronchospasm as adjunct
Tiotropium	Long-acting antimuscarinic (LAMA)	Long-acting bronchodilation	COPD; add-on treatment for some patients with asthma
Prednisolone	Systemic corticosteroid	Reduces inflammation	Acute asthma/COPD exacerbations; many inflammatory/autoimmune conditions

Parkinson's disease

Medication	Medication group	What it is commonly used for	Conditions commonly associated
Co-careldopa (levodopa/carbidopa)	Dopaminergic medicine	Replaces dopamine effect and improves motor symptoms	Parkinson's disease/parkinsonism
Co-beneldopa (levodopa/benserazide)	Dopaminergic medicine	Improves motor symptoms	Parkinson's disease/parkinsonism
Ropinirole	Dopamine agonist	Stimulates dopamine receptors	Parkinson's disease; restless legs syndrome
Pramipexole	Dopamine agonist	Stimulates dopamine receptors	Parkinson's disease; restless legs syndrome
Rotigotine	Dopamine agonist patch	Continuous dopamine-receptor stimulation	Parkinson's disease; restless legs syndrome
Entacapone	COMT inhibitor	Prolongs levodopa effect	Parkinson's disease with end-of-dose motor fluctuations
Rasagiline	MAO-B inhibitor	Increases/prolongs dopamine activity	Parkinson's disease

Stomach & gastrointestinal

Medication	Medication group	What it is commonly used for	Conditions commonly associated
Omeprazole	Proton-pump inhibitor (PPI)	Reduces stomach acid	GORD/acid reflux; peptic ulcer disease; gastric protection; H. pylori regimens
Lansoprazole	Proton-pump inhibitor	Reduces stomach acid	GORD; peptic ulcer disease; gastric protection
Pantoprazole	Proton-pump inhibitor	Reduces stomach acid	GORD; acid-related disease; gastric protection
Gaviscon (alginate/antacid)	Alginate/antacid	Reduces reflux symptoms	Heartburn; acid reflux/GORD
Famotidine	H2-receptor antagonist	Reduces stomach acid	Reflux/acid-related disorders
Loperamide	Antidiarrhoeal	Slows bowel motility	Acute diarrhoea; selected chronic diarrhoeal conditions
Macrogol	Osmotic laxative	Softens stool and treats constipation	Constipation; faecal impaction with appropriate regimen
Lactulose	Osmotic laxative	Treats constipation; reduces ammonia absorption	Constipation; hepatic encephalopathy
Senna	Stimulant laxative	Stimulates bowel movement	Constipation
Buscopan (hyoscine butylbromide)	Antispasmodic	Relieves smooth-muscle spasm	Abdominal cramps; IBS-related spasm; other GI/GU spasm

Epilepsy & seizure prevention

Medication	Medication group	What it is commonly used for	Conditions commonly associated
Levetiracetam	Antiseizure medicine	Prevents seizures	Epilepsy including focal and generalised seizure disorders
Lamotrigine	Antiseizure medicine	Prevents seizures; mood stabilisation	Epilepsy; bipolar disorder
Carbamazepine	Antiseizure medicine	Prevents seizures; reduces neuralgic pain	Epilepsy; trigeminal neuralgia; selected bipolar disorder



Medication	Medication group	What it is commonly used for	Conditions commonly associated
Sodium valproate	Antiseizure medicine	Prevents seizures; mood stabilisation in selected patients	Epilepsy; selected bipolar disorder – major reproductive safety restrictions apply
Phenytoin	Antiseizure medicine	Prevents/controls seizures	Epilepsy; selected acute seizure/status epilepticus management
Topiramate	Antiseizure medicine	Prevents seizures/migraine	Epilepsy; migraine prevention
Clobazam	Benzodiazepine / antiseizure medicine	Adjunct seizure control	Epilepsy; selected seizure disorders

Vitamins, supplements & nutritional replacement

Medication	Medication group	What it is commonly used for	Conditions commonly associated
Thiamine (Vitamin B1)	Vitamin replacement	Prevents/treats thiamine deficiency	Thiamine deficiency; harmful/dependent alcohol use; malnutrition/malabsorption; prevention/treatment of Wernicke's encephalopathy
Pabrinex	Injectable vitamins B & C including thiamine	Rapid parenteral vitamin replacement	Suspected/high-risk Wernicke's encephalopathy; severe nutritional deficiency, particularly associated with alcohol dependence/malnutrition
Folic acid (Vitamin B9)	Vitamin replacement	Replaces folate	Folate-deficiency anaemia; pregnancy supplementation; supplementation with selected medicines
Hydroxocobalamin (Vitamin B12)	Vitamin replacement	Replaces vitamin B12	Vitamin B12 deficiency; pernicious anaemia
Ferrous fumarate / ferrous sulfate	Iron replacement	Replaces iron	Iron-deficiency anaemia
Adcal-D3 (calcium carbonate + colecalciferol)	Calcium + Vitamin D3 supplement	Replaces calcium/vitamin D and supports bone health	Calcium/vitamin D deficiency; osteoporosis; commonly used alongside osteoporosis treatment
Colecalciferol (Vitamin D3)	Vitamin D supplement	Treats/prevents vitamin D deficiency	Vitamin D deficiency; osteomalacia; bone-health supplementation

Key revision point: Use a medication list as a clue during history taking, not as proof of a diagnosis. Ask what each medicine is for, check allergies and adherence, and consider recent medication changes. Always use current local/national guidance when making clinical decisions.