



Medication Suffixes/Prefixes

Suffix/Prefix	Drug Class	Example	Nursing Considerations
-pril	ACE Inhibitors	Lisinopril, Enalapril	Monitor blood pressure, watch for hyperkalemia, be cautious in patients with renal impairment, avoid in pregnancy.
-sartan	Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers (ARBs)	Losartan, Valsartan	Monitor blood pressure, manage hyperkalemia, avoid in pregnancy.
-dipine	Calcium Channel Blockers	Amlodipine, Nifedipine	Monitor for hypotension and edema, avoid in heart failure.
-statin	HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibitors	Atorvastatin, Simvastatin	Monitor liver enzymes, educate about muscle pain, avoid grapefruit juice.
-lol	Beta Blockers	Metoprolol, Atenolol	Monitor heart rate and blood pressure, use cautiously in asthma/COPD.
-cillin	Penicillins	Amoxicillin, Penicillin	Check for allergies, monitor for signs of anaphylaxis.
-prazole	Proton Pump Inhibitors	Omeprazole, Esomeprazole	Monitor for GI upset, long-term use may lead to magnesium deficiency.
-vir	Antivirals	Acyclovir, Oseltamivir	Monitor renal function, educate

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			about timely administration.
-ase	Thrombolytics	Alteplase, Streptokinase	Monitor for bleeding, contraindicated in recent surgery or bleeding disorders.
-xaban	Direct Oral Anticoagulants	Rivaroxaban, Apixaban	Monitor for signs of bleeding, educate about avoiding activities that increase bleeding risk.
-azine	Phenothiazines (Antipsychotics)	Chlorpromazine, Prochlorperazine	Monitor for extrapyramidal symptoms, educate about sedation effects.
-cycline	Tetracyclines	Doxycycline, Tetracycline	Avoid in pregnancy and children, monitor for photosensitivity.
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-floxacin	Fluoroquinolones	Ciprofloxacin, Levofloxacin	Monitor for tendon pain, educate about photosensitivity.
-lol	Beta Blockers	Propranolol, Carvedilol	Same as -lol; also used in migraine prophylaxis and portal hypertension.
-pam / -lam	Benzodiazepines	Diazepam, Alprazolam	Monitor for CNS depression, risk of dependency and withdrawal.
-sone	Corticosteroids	Prednisone, hydrocortisone	Monitor for immunosuppression, educate about gradual withdrawal.
	Cholinergics	Neostigmine,	Monitor for
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-Stigmine		Physostigmine	Cholinergic Crisis (muscle weakness, increased salivation, sweating, bradycardia, and possibly respiratory failure)
-Actone	Potassium Sparing diuretic	Aldactone, Spironolactone	Monitor Potassium Levels (Watch out for hyperkalemia)
-bital	Barbiturates	Amobarbital, Pentobarbital	Monitor CNS depression, potential for dependence and withdrawal
-dronate	Bisphosphonates (Bone Resorption Inhibitors)	Risedronate, alendronate	Educate about esophageal irritation and advise sitting upright for 30 minutes post- dose
-tidine	H2 Blockers (Gastric Acid Reduction)	Ranitidine, Cimetidine	Educate about taking with meals, monitor for confusion in elderly
-afil	Phosphodiesterase Inhibitors	sildenafil, tadalafil	Educate about potential for hypotension, contraindicated with nitrates
-terol	Beta2-Agonists (Bronchodilators)	Albuterol, Levalbuterol	Monitor heart rate, educate about potential tremors