

**COMMON DRUG CATEGORIES**

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This information is not intended to be inclusive of all categories, but is included to provide an easy reference for students.

1. Analgesics – relieve pain; divided into narcotic and non-narcotics analgesics.
2. Antacids – neutralize stomach acid and are used to treat ulcers, gastritis and GERD.
3. Antianginal – used to treat angina (chest pain).
4. Anti-anxiety/tranquilizers – decrease anxiety and tension.
5. Antiarrhythmics – used to treat abnormal heart rate or rhythm (arrhythmias).
6. Antibiotics – used to treat bacterial infections.
7. Anticoagulants – prevent blood clots, commonly called “blood thinners.”
8. Anticonvulsants/antiepileptics – used to control or prevent seizures.
9. Antidepressant/mood elevators – used to treat depression.
10. Antidiabetics – used to treat diabetes, includes insulins and oral hypoglycemics.
11. Antidiarrheals – used to treat diarrhea.
12. Antiemetics – used to treat nausea or vomiting.
13. Antifungals – used to treat fungal infections.
14. Antihistamines – used to treat allergy symptoms and allergic reactions.
15. Antihypertensives – used to treat high blood pressure.
16. Anti-infectives – used to treat infections.
17. Antiparkinsons – used to treat symptoms associated with Parkinson’s disease.
18. Antivirals – used to treat viral infections.
19. Antipsychotics – used to treat mental illness.
20. Bronchodilators – open breathing passages.
21. Cardiovascular drugs – used to treat conditions of the cardiovascular system.

22. Corticosteroids – used to treat inflammation and severe allergic reactions.
23. Dermatologicals – used to treat conditions of the hair, skin and nails.
24. Diuretics – used to remove excess body fluids, commonly called “water pills.”
25. Electrolytes – used to replace chemicals such as potassium, sodium or chloride in the body.
26. Laxatives – used to treat constipation.
27. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS) – used to treat inflammation.
28. Sedatives/hypnotics – used to promote sleep.
29. Skeletal muscle relaxants – decrease muscle tone, anxiety and tension.
30. Thyroid replacements – replace thyroid hormone in residents with hypothyroidism.
31. Vitamins/minerals – used to supplement or replace chemicals lacking in the diet.