

CARDIAC MEDICATIONS TO STUDY FOR THE NCLEX:

Categories	Therapeutic Use	Common Medications	Side Effects
Beta Blockers	Block adrenaline to slow heart rate.	Metoprolol , atenolol, carvedilol.	Fatigue, dizziness, cold hands or feet, and a slow heart rate. Gastrointestinal issues. Sexual dysfunction issues
Calcium Channel Blockers	Slow electrical signals from the heart's top to bottom.	Diltiazem, verapamil, Amlodipine (Narvasc)	Dizziness, headaches, flushing, fatigue, and swelling in the legs/ankles (peripheral edema), with constipation being frequent
Antiarrhythmics (Sodium/Potassium Channel Blockers)	Directly modify electrical currents.	Lecainide, Propafenone (Class I), Amiodarone , Sotalol, Dofetilide (Class III).	Swelling(edema), headaches, flushing, dizziness, fatigue, slow heart rate (bradycardia), and constipation.
Anticoagulants/Antiplatelets	Prevent blood clots.	Warfarin , Heparin, Aspirin.	Bleeding, bruising, nose bleeds, bleeding gums, heavy periods, blood in stool; nausea, diarrhea, headaches and dizziness.
Lipid-Lowering Drugs	Manage cholesterol.	Atorvastatin (Lipitor) and Rosuvastatin (Crestor), Simvastatin (Zocar)	Muscle aches, headaches, digestive issues (N/V, gas diarrhea, constipation) and fatigue.
Vasodilators/Vasoconstrictors	Affect blood vessel diameter.	Nitroglycerin and Hydralazine.	Dizziness, headache, flushing, tachycardia, swelling, fatigue, joint pain.

<p>ACE Inhibitors (Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitors)</p>	<p>Block hormone production that constricts vessels.</p>	<p>Lisinopril (commonly used post heart attack) Metroprolol (can mask diabetic symptoms)</p>	<p>Dry cough, dizziness, headache, fatigue, metallic taste. High potassium levels. Swelling of the lips, tongue, and oropharynx indicates angioedema, a rare but life-threatening adverse effect of ACE inhibitors.</p>
<p>Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers (ARBs)</p>	<p>Block hormones and relax blood vessels</p>	<p>Losartan potassium (Cosaar)</p>	<p>Dizziness, headache, fatigue, stomach issues, high potassium and upper respiratory infections.</p>
<p>Cardiac Glycosides</p>	<p>Increase heart muscle contractility.</p>	<p>Lonaxin (Digoxin)</p>	<p>Many that effect the gastrointestinal, Central nervous system and cardiovascular system. Check potassium levels with this medication. Used to treat heart failure.</p>
<p>Diuretics</p>	<p>Increase urine output to reduce fluid/blood volume.</p>	<p>Furosemide, Hydrochlorothiazide, Spironolactone.</p>	<p>Frequent urination. Dehydration. fatigue, muscle cramps, dizziness, and thirst; other potential effects include increased sun sensitivity, gout, digestive upset, headaches, and sexual issues, with serious side effects like irregular heartbeat or kidney failure.</p>
<p>Other Things To Know:</p> <p>Amiodarone has several serious, life-threatening adverse effects, with pulmonary toxicity being one of the most significant.</p>	<p>Spironolactone is a potassium-sparing diuretic, meaning it can cause the body to retain potassium, leading to hyperkalemia.</p> <p>Propranolol is a non-selective beta-blocker, meaning it blocks both beta-</p>	<p>1 (heart) and beta-2 (lungs) receptors.. Blocking beta-2 receptors can cause</p>	<p>bronchoconstriction, which can trigger a severe asthma attack in susceptible individuals.</p>

- **Bold is most prescribed med**