

## MSN PHYSICIAN'S EDUCATION GRAM<sup>®</sup>

### COMMON DRUG INTERACTIONS

The following information discusses clinically common drug interactions that may possibly compromise efforts to provide the best quality of health care to patients. Some of the pharmacological, clinical effects and possible management strategies are also included.

DRUG 1	DRUG 2	EFFECT	POSSIBLE MANAGEMENT
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**Absorption:** (Drug interaction due to incomplete absorption of interacting agents.)

Oral Anti-infectives such as Quinolones (Cipro), Tetracyclines, and Azole antifungals (Ketoconazole)	Antacids	Decreases the absorption of anti-infectives.	Give anti-infective 2 hours before or 6 hours after the antacid
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**Distribution:** (Drug interaction due to modified distribution of the drug throughout the body.)

Warfarin (Coumadin)	Phenylbutazone	Increase Warfarin	Monitor INR carefully
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**Metabolism:** (Drug interaction due to change in drug metabolism.)

Cimetidine (Tagamet)	Caffeine	Increased levels of caffeine. Agitation, palpitation, shaking etc.	Decrease coffee intake and/or change to another drug. (Pepcid)
Ciprofloxacin (Cipro) Fluvoxamine (Luvox)	Olanzapine (Zyprexa)	Incr. levels of Zyprexa. Increased incidence of side effects.	Change agent - Monitor carefully Manage side effect.
Erythromycin	Buspirone (BuSpar)	Incr. side effects of BuSpar	↓ dose or change agent
Omeprazole (Prilosec) Fluoxetine (Prozac)	Diazepam (Valium)	Increased side effects of Valium	↓ dose of Valium
Diltiazem (Cardizem)	Alprazolam (Xanax)	Incr. Side effects of Xanax	↓ dose of Xanax
Carbamazepine (Tegretol) Phenytoin (Dilantin)	Oral Contraceptives (OC)	Decreases the effectiveness of OC	Use alternate method of contraception
Clarithromycin (Biaxin)	Statins, e.g., Lovastatin (Mevacor) Simvastatin (Zocor)	Increased Statin Levels Increased risk of myopathy	Monitor or change to other agents

**Pharmacodynamics:** (Drug interaction due to different pharmacological effects of interacting agents.)

Warfarin (Coumadin)	NSAID, Aspirin	Increased bleeding risk	Use Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
Hydrocodone (Vicodin)	Benzodiazepine (Valium)	Increased sedation	↓ dose of both agents (or use a short acting Benzodiazepine)
SSRI (e.g., Prozac, Zoloft, Paxil)	Propranolol (Inderal)	Increased sexual dysfunction	↓ dose or use a different agent

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