

Critical medicine list

Due to the risk of patient harm, administration of these drugs must NEVER be unintentionally omitted or delayed.

Omission or delay of critical medicines are patient safety incidents and should be reported as a clinical incident.

Consider changing formulation e.g. liquids or the route of administration if patient is unable to take the medication via the route prescribed. Please contact your local pharmacy for advice.

Drug name/class	Examples of medicines / additional information
Anticoagulants	Enoxaparin, Warfarin, Phenindione, Acenocoumarol, Fondaparinux, Apixaban, Rivaroxaban, Dabigatran, Edoxaban
Antiepileptics	Carbamazepine, Clobazam, Clonazepam, Gabapentin, Lamotrigine, Levetiracetam, Midazolam, Phenobarbitone, Phenytoin, Pregabalin, Retigabine, Sodium Valproate, Tiagabine, Topiramate, Vigabatrin
Antimicrobials	Co-amoxiclav, Amoxicillin, Trimethoprim, Nitrofurantoin, Cefalexin, Doxycycline
Antiplatelets & thrombolytics for ACS/stroke	Aspirin, Clopidogrel, Ticagrelor, Prasugrel,
Anti - virals	Aciclovir
Chemotherapy & associated therapies	Antiemetics, steroids and oral chemotherapy agents
Clozapine	A patient must NOT miss more than 48 hours of Clozapine doses. If a treatment break of more than 48 hours has occurred, re-titration with lower doses is required – Seek guidance from GP
Corticosteroids	Prednisolone, Hydrocortisone, Methylprednisolone, Dexamethasone, Fludrocortisone, Budesonide,
Desmopressin (DDAVP)	Risk of profound dehydration and hypernatraemia if doses missed
Immunosuppressants	Azathioprine, Ciclosporin, Mycophenolate, Tacrolimus
Insulin & other hypoglycaemic agents	Metformin, Gliclazide, Pioglitazone, Exenatide, Saxagliptin, Liraglutide, Lixisenatide, Canagliflozin, Dapagliflozin
Neuromuscular agents	Pyridostigmine, Baclofen
Opioid analgesics	Morphine, Oxycodone, Buprenorphine, Fentanyl
Parkinson's Disease medication	Amantadine, Co-beneldopa (Madopar), Co-careldopa (Sinemet), Entacapone, Stalevo/Sastravi/StaneK, Ropinirole, Rotigotine, Apomorphine, Pramipexole,
Nebulised bronchodilator therapy	Salbutamol, Ipratropium