

MEDICINES UPDATE

Care homes April 2016

Critical Medicines List

- do not omit or delay these medicines

- Delayed administration is more than two hours after the time the dose is due
- There may be occasions when, based on clinical judgement, it is appropriate to delay or omit medication. The rationale for this decision must be clearly documented.
- If a resident refuses critical medicines, inform GP

Note that this list is not exhaustive.

Drugs	Use	Risk if omitted or delayed
Antibiotics	Infection – particularly important in first 48 hours of therapy	Worsening of infection, microbial resistance
Apixaban	Treatment or prevention of a blood clot	Progression of blood clot
Buprenorphine	Severe pain	Avoidable pain
Carbamazepine	Epilepsy or prevention of fits	Loss of seizure control
Ciclosporin	Transplant recipients	Transplant rejection
Co-beneldopa	Parkinson's disease	Poor control e.g. immobility, unable to swallow doses
Co-careldopa	Parkinson's disease	Poor control e.g. immobility, unable to swallow doses
Dabigatran	Treatment or prevention of a blood clot	Progression of blood clot
Dexamethasone	Long-term steroids used in some chronic diseases	Very low levels of cortisol can result in an Addisonian crisis (extreme weakness, confusion, vomiting, and a big drop in BP)
Enoxaparin	Treatment or prevention of a blood clot	Progression of blood clot
Entacapone	Parkinson's disease	Poor control e.g. immobility, unable to swallow doses
Fentanyl	Severe pain	Avoidable pain
Fludrocortisone	Long-term steroids used in some chronic diseases	Very low levels of cortisol can result in an Addisonian crisis (extreme weakness, confusion, vomiting, and a big drop in BP)
Hydrocortisone	Long-term steroids used in some chronic diseases	Very low levels of cortisol can result in an Addisonian crisis (extreme weakness, confusion, vomiting, and a big drop in BP)
Insulins	Diabetes mellitus	Poor blood glucose control. Very high glucose levels can result in a medical emergency like ketoacidosis
Levetiracetam	Epilepsy or prevention of fits	Loss of seizure control
Mycophenolate	Transplant recipients	Transplant rejection
Morphine	Severe pain	Avoidable pain
Oxycodone	Severe pain	Avoidable pain
Phenytoin	Epilepsy or prevention of fits	Loss of seizure control
Pramipexole	Parkinson's disease	Poor control e.g. immobility, unable to swallow doses
Prednisolone	Long-term steroids used in some chronic diseases	Very low levels of cortisol can result in an Addisonian crisis (extreme weakness, confusion, vomiting, and a big drop in BP)
Rivaroxaban	Treatment or prevention of a blood clot	Progression of blood clot
Ropinirole	Parkinson's disease	Poor control e.g. immobility, unable to swallow doses
Rotigotine	Parkinson's disease	Poor control e.g. immobility, unable to swallow doses
Salbutamol nebulas	Acute asthma, acute COPD	Failure to treat breathlessness in an acutely ill patient
Sirolimus	Transplant recipients	Transplant rejection
Sodium valproate	Epilepsy or prevention of fits	Loss of seizure control
Stalevo	Parkinson's disease	Poor control e.g. immobility, unable to swallow doses
Tacrolimus,	Transplant recipients	Transplant rejection
Warfarin	Treatment or prevention of a blood clot	Progression of blood clot

*Edited with kind permission from *GSTT Guideline on omitted or delayed doses: critical drugs list version 3.0 June 2014*