



# FREQUENTLY PRESCRIBED MEDICATIONS

*Drugs You Need to Know*

Second Edition

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*To the alumni, present students, and future students  
of Temple University School of Pharmacy*





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## Preface

The genesis of *Frequently Prescribed Medications: Drugs You Need to Know* began at the Temple University School of Pharmacy as a resource for students to prepare for their “Top 200 Exam,” an exam focused on the highly pertinent facts of frequently prescribed medications that all third-professional-year students must pass before beginning the fourth professional year. Before writing earlier versions of this text, faculty at Temple reviewed many other books, flashcards, and resources but found none to be optimal references for our students’ needs. Many books were extraordinarily detailed or did not emphasize important information clearly and concisely, and important drugs were not included. For the past 12 years at Temple, we have used versions of this text, and students and faculty have found *Frequently Prescribed Medications* to be a very helpful resource. This *Second Edition* expands on the Temple in-house versions by including key points for each drug and drug class as well as review questions.

We hope that this text will serve as a useful reference for healthcare students and professionals of various disciplines as they learn the most frequently used medications in clinical practice.

### New to the Second Edition

In creating this second edition of *Frequently Prescribed Medications: Drugs You Need to Know*, we reviewed the current usage patterns of medications available in the United States. In doing

so, 98 new drugs were added to this edition as well as a new chapter titled “Biologic and Immunologic Agents.” All aspects of each drug and drug class were updated to include new dosage forms, dosing schedules, side effects, drug interactions, and new indications. Pregnancy categories and Rx or OTC designations also have been added to every drug in this revised edition. All controlled substances are designated as Schedule 2 through 5 as appropriate. All drugs and drug classes have been expanded, and more descriptive mechanism of action information has been included. Finally, 30 new review questions were added to every chapter.

### Acknowledgments

We are indebted to the many clinicians and faculty who have assisted in developing and revising *Frequently Prescribed Medications: Drugs You Need to Know, Second Edition* into its final version. We would like to thank all of the section editors and authors. We would also like to thank the following people, as, without their assistance, earlier versions of this text could not have been written (in alphabetical order): Joseph Boullata, PharmD, BCNSP; Ina Calligaro, PharmD; Christine Fitzgerald, PharmD; Steven Gelone, PharmD; Karissa Kim, PharmD, CACP; Olga M. Klibanov, PharmD; Tanya Knight-Klimas, PharmD, CGP, FASCP; Nisha Mehta, PharmD; Christina Ruggia-Check, PharmD; Patrick Scoble, PharmD; Joel Shuster, PharmD, FCCP; and Sarah Slabaugh, PharmD, RD.



## Abbreviations Used in the Text

|                             |                                          |               |                                                |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 5-HT <sub>3</sub> receptors | Serotonin subtype-3 receptors            | HCTZ          | Hydrochlorothiazide                            |
| ACE                         | Angiotensin converting enzyme            | HDL           | High-density lipoprotein                       |
| ACE-I                       | Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor  | HGB           | Hemoglobin                                     |
| ADHD                        | Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder | HIT           | Heparin-induced thrombocytopenia               |
| AIDS                        | Acquired immune deficiency syndrome      | HIV           | Human immunodeficiency virus                   |
| ALT                         | Alanine aminotransferase                 | HMG-CoA       | Hydroxymethylglutaryl-coenzyme A               |
| aPTT                        | Activated partial thromboplastin time    | HPA           | Hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis            |
| ARB                         | Angiotensin receptor blocker             | IBS           | Irritable bowel syndrome                       |
| ARDS                        | Acute respiratory distress syndrome      | IM            | Intramuscular                                  |
| AST                         | Aspartate aminotransferase               | INR           | International normalized ratio                 |
| BAS                         | Bile acid sequestrant                    | IOP           | Intraocular pressure                           |
| BMT                         | Bone marrow transplant                   | IV            | Intravenous                                    |
| BPH                         | Benign prostatic hyperplasia             | LDL           | Low-density lipoprotein                        |
| BZD                         | Benzodiazepine                           | LFT           | Liver function test                            |
| CABG                        | Coronary artery bypass graft             | LMWH          | Low molecular weight heparin                   |
| CBC                         | Complete blood count                     | MAO           | Monoamine oxidase                              |
| cGMP                        | Cyclic guanosine monophosphate           | MAOI          | Monoamine oxidase inhibitor                    |
| CHF                         | Congestive heart failure                 | MDI           | Metered-dose inhaler                           |
| CKD                         | Chronic kidney disease                   | MI            | Myocardial infarction                          |
| ClCrest                     | Estimated creatinine clearance           | MOA           | Mechanism of action                            |
| CNI                         | Calcineurin inhibitors                   | MRI           | Magnetic resonance imaging                     |
| CNS                         | Central nervous system                   | NG tube       | Nasogastric tube                               |
| COPD                        | Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease    | NLO           | Nasolacrimal occlusion                         |
| COX-2                       | Cyclooxygenase-2                         | NMS           | Neuroleptic malignant syndrome                 |
| CPK                         | Creatine phosphokinase                   | NNRTI         | Non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor |
| CrCl                        | Creatinine clearance                     | NRTI          | Nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor     |
| CRF                         | Chronic renal failure                    | NSAID         | Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug            |
| CTZ                         | Chemoreceptor trigger zone               | NTE           | Not to exceed                                  |
| CVA                         | Cerebrovascular accident                 | OTC           | Over the counter                               |
| CYP                         | Cytochrome P450                          | PBPC          | Peripheral blood progenitor cell collection    |
| DHA                         | Docosahexaenoic acid                     | PCI           | Percutaneous coronary intervention             |
| DIC                         | Disseminated intravascular coagulopathy  | PCP           | <i>Pneumocystis carinii</i> pneumonia          |
| DKA                         | Diabetic ketoacidosis                    | PDE5          | Phosphodiesterase type 5                       |
| DNA                         | Deoxyribonucleic acid                    | PE            | Pulmonary embolism                             |
| DVT                         | Deep vein thrombosis                     | PI            | Protease inhibitor                             |
| EKG                         | Electrocardiogram                        | PPAR $\alpha$ | Peroxisome proliferator activated receptors    |
| EPA                         | Eicosapentaenoic acid                    | PPI           | Proton pump inhibitor                          |
| EPS                         | Extrapyramidal symptoms                  | PUD           | Peptic ulcer disease                           |
| FAP                         | Familial adenomatous polyposis           | RA            | Rheumatoid arthritis                           |
| FDA                         | U.S. Food and Drug Administration        | RDA           | Recommended dietary allowance                  |
| G-CSF                       | Granulocyte colony-stimulating factor    | RNA           | Ribonucleic acid                               |
| GERD                        | Gastroesophageal reflux disease          | SCN           | Severe chronic neutropenia                     |
| GFR                         | Glomerular filtration rate               | Scr           | Serum creatinine                               |
| GI                          | Gastrointestinal                         | SJS           | Stevens-Johnson syndrome                       |
| HCT                         | Hematocrit                               |               |                                                |

|       |                                        |
|-------|----------------------------------------|
| SLE   | Systemic lupus erythematosus           |
| SSRI  | Selective serotonin-reuptake inhibitor |
| SUB-Q | Subcutaneous                           |
| TCA   | Tricyclic antidepressant               |
| TG    | Triglyceride                           |
| TIA   | Transient ischemic attack              |

|      |                               |
|------|-------------------------------|
| TLC  | Therapeutic lifestyle changes |
| TMJ  | Temporomandibular joint       |
| TNF  | Tumor necrosis factor         |
| TPA  | Tissue plasminogen activator  |
| UFH  | Unfractionated heparin        |
| VLDL | Very low density lipoprotein  |

## FDA Pregnancy Category Definitions

**Category A:** Adequate and well-controlled studies have failed to demonstrate a risk to the fetus in the first trimester of pregnancy (and there is no evidence of risk in later trimesters).

**Category B:** Animal reproduction studies have failed to demonstrate a risk to the fetus and there are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women.

**Category C:** Animal reproduction studies have shown an adverse effect on the fetus and there are no adequate and well-controlled studies in humans, but potential benefits may warrant use of the drug in pregnant women despite potential risks.

**Category D:** There is positive evidence of human fetal risk based on adverse reaction data from investigational or marketing experience or studies in humans, but potential benefits may warrant use of the drug in pregnant women despite potential risks.

**Category X:** Studies in animals or humans have demonstrated fetal abnormalities and/or there is positive evidence of human fetal risk based on adverse reaction data from investigational or marketing experience, and the risks involved in use of the drug in pregnant women clearly outweigh potential benefits.

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