

# DRUG SUFFIXES CHEAT SHEET

—SORTED ALPHABETICALLY—

1

A suffix is the ending of a word, placed after the word's stem, which often communicates meaning. Drug suffixes are commonly used to group drugs based on the drug's action.

Suffix	Drug Classification	Examples	Action
-actone	Potassium-Sparing Diuretics	spironolactone aldactone	Increase the fluid excreted by the kidneys, while retaining potassium in the body. reduces cardiovascular congestion and edema that results from CHF. They also lower blood pressure.
-ase	Thrombolytics	streptokinase alteplase (tPA)	"Clot busters" that break down clots that lead to heart attacks or strokes, to restore blood flow to the obstructed area.
-azine	Antiemetics	promethazine	Treat and prevent nausea and vomiting.
-caine	Local Anesthetics	lidocaine xylocaine	Prevent the transmission of nerve impulses or pain without causing unconsciousness.
-cycline	Tetracyclines	tetracycline doxycycline	Broad spectrum antibiotics that treat bacterial infections.
-dipine	Calcium Channel Blockers	amlodipine nifedipine	Relax blood vessels, therefore increasing blood supply and oxygen to the heart and reducing the heart's workload while lowering blood pressure.
-floxacin	Fluoroquinolones	ciprofloxacin levofloxacin	Broad spectrum antibiotics that treat bacterial infections.
-ide	Meglitinides	repaglinide nateglinide	Lower blood glucose levels by triggering the production of insulin; used to treat type 2 diabetes.
	Sulfonylureas	glyburide glipizide	
-ine	Antihistamines	diphenhydramine loratadine brompheniramine	Treat allergy symptoms, such as sneezing, runny nose, itching, and hives, caused by histamine activation.
	Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs)	fluoxetine sertraline	Block or delay the reabsorption of serotonin; used to treat major depressive disorders and anxiety disorders
-lam	Benzodiazepines	alprazolam	Treat anxiety; prlonged use may lead to physical dependence.



# DRUG SUFFIXES CHEAT SHEET

—SORTED ALPHABETICALLY—

2

Suffix	Drug Classification	Examples	Action
-lol	Beta Blockers	atenolol metoprolol propranolol	Reduce blood pressure by slowing the heart rate and reducing myocardial contractility. They are most often given for hypertension and chronic heart failure.
-lone	Corticosteroids	methylprednisolone	Anti-inflammatory drugs used to control many different inflammation-related symptoms.
-micin -mycin	Aminoglycosides	gentamicin tobramycin	Broad spectrum antibiotics that treat bacterial infections.
-pam	Benzodiazepines	alprazolam diazepam lorazepam	Treat anxiety; prolonged use may lead to physical dependence.
-phylline	Bronchodilators	theophylline	Dilate the bronchi and bronchioles, decreasing resistance in the airway and increasing airflow to the lungs. Often used for asthma and COPD.
-pram	Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs)	citalopram	Block or delay the reabsorption of serotonin; used to treat major depressive disorders and anxiety disorders
-prazole	Proton Pump Inhibitors	lansoprazole omeprazole	Anti-ulcer drugs that reduce gastric acid production.
-pril	ACE Inhibitors	captopril lisinopril	Reduce blood pressure by dilating blood vessels, thus reducing the heart's workload.
-sartan	Angiotensin-II Receptor Blockers	losartan valsartan	Inhibit blood vessel constriction, helping blood vessels relax, which lowers blood pressure.
-sone	Corticosteroids	dexamethasone prednisone	Anti-inflammatory drugs used to control many different inflammation-related symptoms.
-statin	Antilipidemics	atorvastatin simvastatin	Reduce LDL cholesterol and lower risks from cardiovascular disease.



