



RxFiles Drug Comparison Charts

14th Edition (Aug 2023)

CHART PEARLS

BY THE NUMBERS

Total pages: **246** New chart pages: **12**
Changes: **thousands**. Charts updated **daily**, then to web/app.

NEW AND REVAMPED CHARTS

Art of Optimizing Heart Failure Medications	pg. 27-28
Gestational Diabetes & T2DM in Pregnancy	pg. 57
Inflammatory Bowel Disease	pg. 71-73
COVID-19 Prevention & Outpatient Treatment	pg. 121-122
Common Analgesics & Co-Analgesics	pg. 130
Depression Colour Comparison	pg. 179
Depression & Anxiety in Children & Adolescents	pg. 180
Treatment-Resistant Depression	pg. 181
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Overview	pg. 182-184
Anxiety Overview	pg. 185
Asthma Colour Comparison Chart	pg. 207

SCANNING THROUGH THE CHARTS

Some Highlights Include:	Go To...
New RCT data suggests no difference in efficacy between chlorthalidone and hydrochlorothiazide in hypertension; however chlorthalidone has a greater risk of hypokalemia.	pg 4
Finerenone KERENDIA now approved in Canada for patients with chronic kidney disease in diabetes – may consider if ACR>3 despite ACEi/ARB + SGLT2i therapy (but coverage currently limited).	pg 48
Budesonide ENTOCORT is now the only steroid enema available in Canada for treating inflammatory bowel disease.	pg 72
New progestin-only contraceptive drospirenone SLYND may have a more forgiving dosing window than norethindrone MICRONOR .	pg 167
New comparison of onset and duration for ADHD stimulant therapy, to help adjust therapy to improve efficacy or manage adverse effects.	pg 183
Pregabalin has evidence for benefit if SSRI/SNRI non-response in anxiety.	pg 185
New info on off-label dosing of naltrexone PRN for alcohol use disorder – 50mg PRN 1-2 hours before anticipated time of drinking or when cravings arise.	pg 200
Asthma Colour Comparison chart shows which inhalers have dose counters, a low carbon footprint, low bioavailability, option for once daily dosing, and other comparisons	pg 207

SOME OF THE GUIDELINES REVIEWED

Heart Failure ^{AHA/ACC'22}; Obesity ^{AGA'22}; Diabetes ^{ADA'22}; Depression ^{ACP'23}; COPD ^{GOLD'23}; Asthma ^{CTS'21}; Vaccinations ^{ACIP'22}; Osteoporosis ^{ACP'23 and SOGC'22}; Chronic Idiopathic Constipation ^{AGA'23}; Menopause ^{NAMS'23 and SOGC'22}; Head Lice ^{AAP'22}; GERD ^{ACG'22}; Perioperative DMARD Guide for THA/TKA ^{ACR'22}; IBS with Constipation ^{AGA'22}; Erectile Dysfunction ^{CUA'21}

SOME PRICE CHANGES

Price Decreases:

- **ATAZANAVIR (300MG)** was \$440/month, now \$263/month
- **APIXABAN (5MG)** was \$118/month (brand), now \$37/month (generic)
- **JANUVIA XR (1000/50MG)** was \$135/month (brand), now \$75/month (generic)
- **ACTONEL DR (35MG)** was \$58/month (brand), now \$32/month (generic)
- **PROMETRIUM (200MG)** was \$93/month (brand), now \$30/month (generic)
- **AUDRINA -GENERIC ALESSE (DAILY)** was \$13/month, now \$10/month
- **DAPAGLIFLOZIN** was \$320/3 months (brand), now \$90/3 months (generic, not yet SPPD formulary, but NIHB open benefit in some provinces)

Price Increases:

- **FENTANYL PATCHES (25MCG/HR)** was \$50/month, now \$104/month
- **CARBAMAZEPINE (400MG BID)** was \$44/month, now \$60/month
- **DIAZEPAM (10MG TABS BID)** was \$17/month, now \$87/month
- **BUPROPION (150MG SR BID)** was \$26/month, now \$71/month

SOME NEW DRUG (BRAND NAME) ADDITIONS

ARAZLO, CEQUA, LEQVIO, MYINFLA, NEXTSTELLIS, OSPHENA, PONVORY, REMIMA, TRULANCE, VRAYLAR, VYEPTI, XYDALBA, CAMZYOS, RUKOBIA, SKYRIZI, SLYND, TEZSPIRE, VABLYS, VAXNEUVANCE, VYEPTI, AREXVY, KERENDIA, KIRSTY, SEMGLEE, ONDEXXYA, PREVARNAR-20, UBRELVY, WEGOVY ... MANY!

SOME FORMULARY CHANGES

- **New generics:** apixaban, risedronate DR, teriflunomide, ticagrelor, ciprofloxacin/dexamethasone, amox/clav, clonidine, cloxacillin, calcipotriol/betamethasone dipropionate, darifenacin, lurasidone, darunavir, micronized progesterone, octreotide LAR, adapalene/benzoyl peroxide, ethinyl estradiol/drospirenone, tofacitinib
- **New SK Formulary:** **BAQSIMI, CREON-35, DUOBRII, ENTUZITY, ESTRAGYN, EZETROL, HALOETTE, NEXPLANON, SPIRIVA, SUBOXONE SL, TRINTELLIX, TRURAPI, ARAZLO, KIRSTY, SEMGLEE**
- **New EDS:** **AJOVY, ATECTURA, BREZTRI, EMGALITY, CABENUVA, ENERZIAR, FOQUEST, ILUMYA, KESIMPTA, KYNMOBI, MAYZENT, RINVOO, VASCEPA**
- **New NIHB:** **AERMONY, CABENUVA, DUOBRII, ENTUZITY, FOQUEST, HALOETTE, NEXPLANON, RIABNI, TRINTELLIX, VOCABRIA, ENSTILAR, LIBERTE IUD, pregabalin, SEMGLEE, SHINGRIX** if ≥60yrs of age
- **New NIHB prior approval:** **AJOVY, ATECTURA, BAQSIMI, ENERZAI, VASCEPA, DEXCOM** or **LIBRE** continuous glucose meters for any patient on insulin

OUTCOME EVIDENCE FROM MAJOR TRIALS

Major outcome trials & drug dosages used are often noted on charts when pertinent. Relatively recent:

- **REDUCE-IT:** icosapent ethyl **VASCEPA** vs mineral oil (as placebo) in patients with elevated triglycerides despite statin therapy (see page 29).
- **DELIVER:** dapagliflozin **FORXIGA** vs placebo in patients with heart failure with mildly reduced or preserved ejection fraction (see page 23).
- **EPIC-HR:** nirmatrelvir/ritonavir **PAXLOVID** for treatment of unvaccinated COVID_19 patients with 1+ risk factors (see page 122).



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RECENT ADVERSE REACTION ADVISORY

Health Canada [Advisories, Warnings and Recalls - Health Canada](#) & FDA

- Ulipristal **ELLA** may lose effectiveness when taken within 5 days of a progestin-containing contraceptive (see page 170).
- Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir **PAXLOVID** may interact with immunosuppressants such as cyclosporin and tacrolimus (see page 122).
- Esketamine **SPRAVATO** may have a risk of respiratory depression (see page 178).

COLORS SPEAK A 1000 WORDS...

Colours used within the Charts

Green shading usually indicates HERBAL/LIFESTYLE related
Blue shading usually indicates PEDIATRIC related
Dark Blue shading usually indicates ADOLESCENT related
Tan shading usually indicates GERIATRIC/OLD adults related
Purple script usually indicates TRADE NAMES
Yellow highlights CLINICAL DIFFERENCES, PRACTICE GAPS & COMMON ?'s
Blue script usually indicates MAJOR TRIALS
Pink script usually indicates PREGNANCY & LACTATION related
Red shading usually indicates official FDA black box or HC warning
Gray script usually indicates DISCONTINUED drug
Purple shading usually indicates OVERVIEW/GUIDELINE approach



See our Geri-RxFiles 3rd ed. for useful tools, tips and strategies when caring for older adults!

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SYMBOLS

	Canada (We are Canadian)
X	Non-formulary in Saskatchewan
	Exception Drug Status (EDS) in Saskatchewan (SK) (1-800-667-2549)
	Not covered by NIHB (Non-Insured Health Benefits) https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/services/non-insured-health-benefits-first-nations-inuit/benefits-services-under-non-insured-health-benefits-program/drugs-pharmacy-benefits/drug-benefit-list.html
	Prior approval required by NIHB . Coverage for eligible First Nations & Inuit (1-800-580-0950)
	Covered by NIHB. Identified ONLY for those drugs that have SK Formulary restrictions such as EDS or non-formulary status .
\$	Retail <i>Cost to Consumer</i> price based on acquisition cost, markup & dispensing fee in Saskatchewan. Lowest generic price used when where available.
	Full medication coverage by the Saskatchewan Cancer Centre
	Warfarin interactions on the herbal chart
	Tablet is scored. Appears as superscript, e.g. 25 ⁵ mg tablet.
	Tastes good
	Concern if drug or herbal is given Pre-Op
	Avoid if patient has soybean & peanut allergy
	Male
	Female
	Dose ↓ may be required for liver dysfunction
	Dose ↓ required for renal dysfunction if 1) drug ≥ 75% renal excretion 2) toxic if accumulates 3) an active metabolite requiring dose adjustment. [CrCl <60mL/min indicates impaired renal function]

COMMONLY USED ABBREVIATIONS

AE	Adverse event
BID	Twice daily
BP	Blood pressure
bz	Benzodiazepine
CI	Contraindication
CV	Cardiovascular
D	Drug interaction
dx	Diagnosis/disease
HSR	Hypersensitivity reaction
LFT	Liver function tests
M	Monitoring
OTC	Over the counter
HTN	Hypertension
QID	Four times daily
eGFR	Estimated glomerular filtration rate
g	Generic available
GI	Gastrointestinal
HA	Headache
HF	Heart failure
HR	Heart rate
HS	Bedtime
SCr	Serum creatinine
SJS	Stevens Johnson Syndrome
sx	Syndrome/symptom
sz	Seizure
TID	Three times daily
tx	Treatment/Therapy
BMD	Bone mineral density
MI	Myocardial infarction
NNT	Number needed to treat
NNH	Number needed to harm

DRUGS IN PREGNANCY & LACTATION RISK CATEGORIES

PREGNANCY [P]	LACTATION [L]
Safe	Safe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatible in pregnancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatible in breastfeeding
Likely Safe	Likely Safe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No (limited) human data – probably compatible • Compatible: maternal benefit >> embryo-fetal risk • Human data suggest low risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No (limited) human data – probably compatible
Caution	Caution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human, and or animal, data suggest risk • Potential risk in specific trimester(s), as indicated by 'x' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold/delay breastfeeding • No (limited) human data – potential toxicity
Contraindicated	Contraindicated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contraindicated in pregnancy • Contraindicated in specific trimester(s), as indicated by 'x' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contraindicated in breastfeeding
Unknown for Pregnancy and/or Lactation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No (limited) human data – no relevant animal data 	
Reference: Drugs in Pregnancy and Lactation. 12 th ed. Briggs GG, Freeman RK, Towers CV, et al, editors. Wolters Kluwer; 2021.	

What you'll see in the charts:

P = pregnancy L = lactation risk category
Colours correspond to risk categories outlined in this table. Example, warfarin:
P = contraindicated 1st trimester
L = compatible during lactation

