

## Critical Medicines List for Care Homes

To ensure medicines are most effective and to prevent residents from harm, it is important for some medicines to be given specific times.

The following list of medicines are considered critical and must **never** be omitted (missed) or delayed without a clinical reason which has been discussed with a health care professional. The reason for omission should be documented on the resident MAR chart and in their care notes.

If you are unfamiliar with any medication you must ensure you find out what it is prior to administering it to a resident. This information can be found in the BNF or patient information leaflet which can be found inside the box the medicine was supplied in. You can also contact your community pharmacy for help and advice.

Examples of common brands have been given below however other brands are available; please contact your community pharmacy for advice if you are unsure.

Omission or delay of a critical medications is a patient safety incident and should be reported appropriately.

### This list is a guide and not exhaustive

Drug Name/Class	Examples
<b>All medicines used in an emergency</b>	<i>Salbutamol inhaler, Anaphylaxis treatments such as Emerade®, EpiPen®, Jext®</i>
<b>Anti-coagulants</b>	<i>Apixaban, Acenocoumarol, Dabigatran, Dalteparin, Enoxapain (Inhixa®), Heparin, Rivaroxaban, Tinzaparin, Warfarin</i>
<b>Anti-epileptics</b>	<i>Carbamazepine (Tegretol®), Lamotrigine, Levetiracetam (Keppra®), Phenytoin, Sodium Valproate (Epilim®)</i>
<b>Anti-infectives</b>	<i>Antibiotics, Antifungals, Antimalarials, Antiretrovirals, Antivirals</i>
<b>Anti-psychotics and all medication prescribed for long term mental health conditions</b>	<i>Clozapine (Clozaril®), Lithium (Priadel®), Haloperidol, Olanzapine, Risperidone, Quetiapine, Valporic Acid</i>
<b>Corticosteroids</b>	<i>Budesonide (Budenofalk®, Endocort®, Pulmicort®), Dexamethasone, Hydrocortisone, Prednisolone</i>
<b>Insulins</b>	<i>Abasaglar, Actrapid, Apidra, Detemir, Humalog, Humalog Mix25, Humalog Mix50, Humulin I, Humulin M3, Humulin S, Insulatard, Insuman basal, Insuman Comb 15, Inusman Comb 25, Insuman rapid, Lantus, Levemir, Novomix 30, Tresiba, Toujeo</i>
<b>Immunosuppressants</b>	<i>Azathioprine (Azasan®), Cyclosporin (Neoral®), Tacrolimus (Prograf®/Advagraf®), Methotrexate, Mycophenolate Acid (Ceptava®, Myfortic®), Mycophenolate Mofetil (Cellcept®, Mycofenax®)</i>
<b>Parkinson's Medicines</b>	<i>Co-beneldopa (Madopar®), Co-careldopa (Sinemet®), Enacapone, Rotigotine, Ropinerol, Pramiprexole, Stalevo®, Sastravi®</i>
<b>Strong Opioids for acute or chronic pain</b>	<i>Buprenorphine (Butec®), Fentanyl, Methadone, Midazolam, Morphine, Oxycodone</i>
<b>Substance Misuse Treatment</b>	<i>Buprenorphine (Subutex®), Methadone</i>

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## Obtaining Critical Medications

It is the care homes responsibility to ensure that residents always have enough supply of their medications. Prescriptions for critical medicines should be obtained following the normal medication ordering process. If an interim order is required, please highlight that it is a critical medication to the GP practice and community pharmacy and how many doses the resident has remaining to allow them to process appropriately. If the medication is required out of hours you can obtain an emergency supply from the pharmacy.

