

RESOURCES

DMV.ORG: Medications and Driving
<http://www.dmv.org/how-to-guides/medications-and-driving.php>

Drugs, Herbs and Supplements: MedlinePlus. U.S. National Library of Medicine
<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginformation.html>

Drugs, OTCs & Herbals <http://reference.medscape.com/drugs/>

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration <http://www.nhtsa.gov>

- Driving When You are Taking Medications
<http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/olddrive/medications/index.htm>

Roadwise RX: Online tool from AAA that provides personalized feedback on how medications can impact driving <http://www.roadwiserox.com>

- Older Adults' Knowledge About Medications That Can Affect Driving
<http://tinyurl.com/MedicationsAndDriving>

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

- Some Medications and Driving Don't Mix
<http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm107894.htm>
- Caution: Some Over-the-Counter Medicines May Affect Your Driving
<http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm417426.htm>

CITATIONS

de Gier, J. J., Alvarez, F. J., Mercier-Guyon, C., & Verstraete, A. G. (2009). Prescribing and dispensing guidelines for medicinal drugs affecting driving performance. *Drugs, Driving and Traffic Safety*, 121-134.

Hetland, A., & Carr, D. B. (2014). Medications and Impaired Driving: A Review of the Literature. *Ann Pharmacother*, 48 (4), 494-506.

Katzung, B., & Trevor, A. (2015). Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (13th ed.). McGraw-Hill Education.



TREDs: Training, Research and Education for Driving Safety
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TREDs

TRAINING, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOR DRIVING SAFETY

MEDICATIONS AND DRIVING

THE PROBLEM

Driving injuries are a major cause of disability and death. The use of certain medications increases the risk of these injuries, especially in older adults who are more likely to use prescription medications and engage in polypharmacy. Medications can affect vision and perception, decision making, reaction time and maneuvering – making it a challenge to safely operate a vehicle. Research tells us:

- 78% of drivers age 55 and older use at least one prescription medication with the potential to impair driving
- Two-thirds of people age 65 and older take five or more daily medications that can impair their safe driving ability
- 34% of seniors are prescribed medications by more than one clinician, possibly bypassing opportunities to check for interactions

GUIDELINES FOR CLINICIANS

- For seizures, psychosis and depression, the driving risks of the disease may be greater than the driving risks of the medications
- Counsel patients about the potential impact of medications on driving ability; take into consideration their condition and possible interactions with OTC drugs
- Advise patients to use alternative transportation if taking medications with side effects that can impair driving
- Comply with California's requirement to report lapses in consciousness associated with an underlying condition. A reduction in alertness due to medication side effects falls under this reporting requirement (CA HSC 103900)



UC San Diego

SKAGGS SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
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MEDICATIONS WITH POTENTIAL DRIVING-RELATED SIDE EFFECTS*

Class	Side Effects		Least Offending	Most Offending
ALPHA BLOCKERS	dizziness drowsiness fatigue	hypotension nausea syncope	silodosin tamsulosin (with caution)	doxazosin prazosin terazosin
ANTIDEPRESSANTS	drowsiness hypotension syncope		bupropion SSRIs (with caution) SNRIs (with caution)	MAOIs mirtazapine tricyclics trazodone
ANTIDIABETICS	hypoglycemia nausea		exenatide metformin gliptins - alogliptin - linagliptin - saxagliptin - sitagliptin - vildagliptin	glinides - nateglinide - repaglinide insulin liraglutide sulfonylurea
ANTIEMETICS	blurred vision confusion drowsiness hypotension	incoordination poor judgment poor muscle tone syncope	ondansetron	chlorpromazine metoclopramide prochlorperazine promethazine
ANTIHISTAMINES	blurred vision drowsiness hyperkinesia		fexofenadine levocetirizine loratadine	cetirizine chlorpheniramine dimenhydrinate diphenhydramine hydroxyzine meclizine
ANTIHYPERTENSIVES	hypotension syncope		ACEIs ARBs calcium channel blockers thiazide diuretics	beta blockers calcium channel blockers loop diuretics
ANTIPARKINSONIANS	confusion dizziness drowsiness headache hypotension	incoordination nausea poor judgment poor muscle tone syncope		Caution in all classes
MUSCLE RELAXANTS	confusion drowsiness incoordination	poor judgment poor muscle tone		Caution in all classes
PAIN MEDICATIONS	confusion drowsiness	nausea poor judgment	acetaminophen NSAIDs (with caution)	indomethacin narcotic analgesics
SOMNIACS	altered consciousness ataxia	hypotension incoordination nystagmus	eszopiclone zaleplon	barbiturates benzodiazepines diphenhydramine temazepam zolpidem zopiclone

* Due to the dynamic nature of medical and pharmaceutical knowledge, there is no guarantee of completeness, relevance or accuracy of this guide. This guide is for reference only, and is not intended for use as a substitute for professional opinion.