

Common Drug Name Stems Cheat Sheet

Below is a cheat sheet table that has three columns: Drug Stem, Drug Class, and an Example. Each stem has hyphens at one or both ends of its text to show that it is found at the beginning, end, or in the middle of the generic name.

Drug Stem	Drug Class and/or Stem Explanation	Examples
–alol	Combined alpha and beta blockers	labet alol , medro xalol
–andr–	Androgens	nandrolone
–anserin	Serotonin 5–HT(sub)2 receptor antagonists	alt anserin , trop anserin , alt anserin
–arabine	Antineoplastics (arabinofuranosyl derivatives)	flud arabine
–ase	Enzymes	alglucera se , dorna se alfa
–azepam	Antianxiety agents (diazepam type)	lor azepam
–azosin	Antihypertensives (prazosin type)	dox azosin
–bactam	Beta–lactamase inhibitors	sul bactam
–bamate	Tranquilizers/antiepileptics	mepro bamate , fel bamate
–barb	Barbituric acid derivatives	phenob barbital
–butazone	Anti–inflammatory analgesics (phenylbutazone type)	mofeb utazone
–caine	Local anesthetics	dibu caine
cef–	Cephalosporins	cefazolin
–cillin	Penicillins	ampic illin
–conazole	Antifungals (miconazole type)	flu conazole , oxiconazole
–cort–	Cortisone derivatives	hydroc cortisone
–curium	Neuromuscular blocking agents	atra curium
–cycline	Antibiotics (tetracycline type)	mino cycline
–dralazine	Antihypertensives (hydrazine–phthalazines)	hy dralazine
–erg–	Ergot alkaloid derivatives	per golid e
estr–	Estrogens	estrone
–fibrate	Antihyperlipidemics	beza fibrate
–flurane	Inhalation anesthetics	en flurane , iso flurane
–gest–	Progestins	me gestrol
–irudin	Anticoagulants	desi rudin
–leukin	Interleukin–2 derivatives	tece leukin , aldes leukin

–lukast	Leukotriene antagonists	monte lukast , zafir lukast
–mab	Monoclonal antibodies	caprom mab , daclizum mab , detumom mab ,
–mantadine	Antivirals	ri mantadine
–monam	Monobactam antibiotics	gloxim onam
–mustine	Antineoplastics	car mustine
–mycin	Antibiotics (streptomyces strains)	lincom mycin
–olol	Beta–blockers (propranolol type)	tim olol , aten olol
–olone	Steroids (no prednisone derivatives)	minax olone
–oxacin	Antibiotics (quinolone derivatives)	diflo oxacin , ciproflo oxacin
–pamide	Diuretics (sulfamoylbenzoic acid derivatives)	adi pamide
–pamil	Coronary vasodilators	tiap pamil
–parin	Heparin derivatives and low molecular weight (or depolymerized) heparins	he parin , tinzap arin , dalte parin
–peridol	Antipsychotics (haloperidol type)	halo peridol
–poetin	Erythropoietins	epoetin alfa, epoetin beta
–pramine	Antidepressants (imipramine type)	lofe pramine
–pred	Prednisone derivatives	pred nicarbate, clo pred hol
–pril	Antihypertensives (ACE inhibitors)	enalap ril , temoca pril , spirap ril
–profen	Anti–inflammatory/analgesic agents (ibuprofen type)	flurbip rofen
–rubicin	Antineoplastic antibiotics (daunorubicin type)	epir ubicin , idar ubicin
–sartan	Angiotensin II receptor antagonists	lo sartan , epro sartan
–sulfa	Antibiotics (sulfonamide derivatives)	sulfa salazine
–thiazide	Diuretics (thiazide derivatives)	chloro thiazide
–tocin	Oxytocin derivatives	oxy tocin , pitocin
–trexate	Antimetabolites (folic acid derivatives)	metho trexate
–triptyline	Antidepressants	amitri ptyline
–uracil	Uracil derivatives used as thyroid antagonists and as antineoplastics	fluorou racil
–vastatin	Antihyperlipidemics (HMG–CoA inhibitors)	lo vastatin , sim vastatin
vir-, -vir- or -vir	Antiviral substances (undefined group)	viro xime, envirodyne, ganciclov ir

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