Most Common Medications used by Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

**Generic Name**  
Docusate Sodium

**Brand Name**  
Colace

**Use**  
Stool softener

**Type**  
Over-the-counter

**Frequent Side Effects**  
Diarrhea, cramps

**Dangerous Side Effects**  
None

**Drug Interactions**  
Avoid use with mineral oil.
Generic Name
Risperdone

Brand Name
Risperdal

Use
Antipsychotic
Anti-mania

Type
Prescription

Frequent Side Effects
Sleepiness, weight gain (can be severe), cold symptoms, nausea/vomiting, dizziness, dry mouth, urinary incontinence, tremor, confusion, visual changes, severe restlessness

Dangerous Side Effects
Mortality risk in elderly dementia patients, severe low blood pressure, Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome, Tardive dyskinesia and other extrapyramidal effects, diabetes, seizures, stroke, severe allergic drug reactions, suicidal thoughts, bone marrow depression that may lead to severe low white blood cell count

Drug Interactions
Do not use with Triptorelin. Use with extreme caution with other psychoactive drugs. This drug has many interactions with common prescription and over the counter medications; should only be used in conjunction with close medical monitoring and complete record of all medications taken by the patient
Generic Name
Divalproex Sodium

Brand Name
Depakote

Use
Anticonvulsant
Migraine
Anti-mania
Mood stabilizer

Type
Prescription

Frequent Side Effects
Inappropriate ADH secretion leading to low blood sodium, Pancreatitis

Dangerous Side Effects
Fatal liver failure, especially in young children; can cause birth defects such as spina bifida if taken during pregnancy; bone marrow failure, severe drug allergy, suicidal thoughts, hallucinations, psychosis

Drug Interactions
Other anticonvulsants; some antibiotics, especially Carbapenems and Rifampin; also interacts with many other drugs including some over the counter medications; should only be used in conjunction with close medical monitoring and complete record of all medications taken by the patient.
Generic Name
Loratadine

Brand Name
Claritin

Use
Anti-allergy

Type
Over-the-counter

Frequent Side Effects
Drowsiness, fatigue, headache, abdominal pain, dry mouth/throat, diarrhea, CNS stimulation

Dangerous Side Effects
Bronchospams, liver toxicity, fainting, seizures, low platelets

Drug Interactions
Do not use with ranolazine (Ranexa) due to risk of arrhythmia. Use caution with cardiac drugs.
Generic Name
Quetiapine

Brand Name
Seroquel

Use
Antipsychotic
Schizophrenia
Bipolar Disorder

Type
Prescription

Frequent Side Effects
Headache, sleepiness/fatigue, increased cholesterol and fats (hyperlipidemia), dizziness, constipation, fast heart beat, liver toxicity, dry mouth, weight gain, menstrual irregularity

Dangerous Side Effects
Mortality risk in elderly dementia patients, risk of suicide in children and adolescents especially during the first month of therapy; severe low blood pressure/fainting, Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (delirium, muscle rigidity, fever), Tardive dyskinesia and other extrapyramidal effects (involuntary movements that can be a permanent problem), diabetes, seizures, stroke, severe allergic drug reactions, suicidal thoughts; bone marrow depression that may lead to severe low white blood cell count; Hypothyroidism, Priapism (prolonged erection), Cataracts; Cardiac EKG changes including prolonged QT interval; worsening depression

Drug Interactions
Interacts with cardiac medications and with other psychotropic medications. Has many other drug interactions; should only be used in conjunction with close medical monitoring and complete record of all medications taken by the patient.
Generic Name
Clonazepam

Brand Name
Klonopin

Use
Anticonvulsant
Treatment of Panic Attacks
Treatment of extrapyramidal symptoms

Type
Prescription

Frequent Side Effects
Drowsiness/sleep changes, poor coordination, nervousness/confusion, GI symptoms, headache, low blood pressure

Dangerous Side Effects
Respiratory depression (breathing depression), liver toxicity, depression, abuse, suicidal thoughts; can make seizures worse

Drug Interactions
Do not use with Sodium Oxybate, a central nervous system depressant that is often abused under the name GHB; interacts with a very wide variety of drugs including antiseizure and heart medications; should only be used in conjunction with close medical monitoring and complete record of all medications taken by the patient.
**Generic Name**
Carbamazepine

**Brand Name**
Tegretol

**Use**
Anticonvulsant
Treatment of Trigeminal Neuralgia
Second line drug for bipolar disorder

**Type**
Prescription

**Frequent Side Effects**
Dry mouth, allergic reactions, withdrawal seizures; can make seizures worse; heart arrhythmia, fainting; inappropriate ADH secretion, leading to low blood sodium; Pancreatitis

**Dangerous Side Effects**
Serious allergic skin reactions in certain people, especially Asians; can depress bone marrow leading to depressed immunity, bleeding due to low platelets; liver toxicity/liver failure; suicidal thoughts; can cause birth defects such as spina bifida if taken during pregnancy.

**Drug Interactions**
Interacts with a very wide variety of drugs; should only be used in conjunction with close medical monitoring and complete record of all medications taken by the patient.
**Generic Name**  
Benztropine Mesylate

**Brand Name**  
Cogentin

**Use**  
Augmentive treatment for Parkinson’s Disease  
Treatment of extrapyramidal symptoms

**Type**  
Prescription

**Frequent Side Effects**  
Dry mouth, constipation, urinary retention, sedation, difficulty breathing, nausea, headache, ringing in the ears, blurred vision

**Dangerous Side Effects**  
Rapid heartbeat, Psychosis (due to anticholinergic effect)

**Drug Interactions**  
Do not use with Potassium salts. Avoid with other anticholinergic medications. Interacts with a wide variety of drugs; should only be used in conjunction with close medical monitoring and complete record of all medications taken by the patient.
Generic Name
Levothyroxine Sodium

Brand Name
Synthroid

Use
Hypothyroidism

Type
Prescription

Frequent Side Effects
Weight loss, fast heart beat, nervousness, tremor, headache, cramps/diarrhea, nausea, hair loss, heat intolerance, menstrual problems, anxiety.

Dangerous Side Effects

Drug Interactions
This drug may need to be given in modified doses; caution advised with sympathomimetics like ephedrine, epinephrine, isoproterenol.
Generic Name
Olanzapine

Brand Name
Zyprexa

Use
Antipsychotic
Schizophrenia
Bipolar Disorder (with mania)
Major Depressive Disorder, when used in combination with Fluoxetine (Prozac)

Type
Prescription

Frequent Side Effects
Headache, sleepiness/insomnia, fatigue, irritability, dry mouth, fast heart beat, high fat/high cholesterol, weight gain, dizziness, tremor, abdominal pain, runny nose, fever, menstrual problems.

Dangerous Side Effects
Mortality Risk in elderly dementia patients; especially in combination with Prozac, suicidal ideas and risk of suicide; Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (delirium, muscle rigidity, fever). Tardive dyskinesia and other extrapyramidal effects (involuntary movements that can be a permanent problem). Severe low blood pressure, high blood sugar, seizures, stroke, severe allergic drug reactions, suicidal thoughts, bone marrow depression that may lead to severe low white blood cell count; liver toxicity, visual changes.

Drug Interactions
Do not use with solid potassium salts. May delay absorption of potassium, leading to GI tract damage. Do not use with Triptorelin (hormone blocker used to treat some forms of prostate cancer.)
Generic Name
Phenobarbital

Brand Name
N/A

Use
Anticonvulsant
Anti-anxiety
Sleep aid

Type
Prescription

Frequent Side Effects
Drowsiness, hyperactivity (in children), nausea/vomiting, rash/hives, pain/swelling, blood clots in veins, Hepatitis, physical dependence.

Dangerous Side Effects
Respiratory depression, serious allergic reactions, anemia, low platelets and other blood problems, suicidal thoughts.

Drug Interactions
Interacts with a wide variety of drugs. This drug may need to be given in modified doses; should only be used in conjunction with close medical monitoring and complete record of all medications taken by the patient.
Generic Name
Calcium Carbonate

Brand Name
Tums
Caltrate
Os-Cal

Use
Heartburn relief
Calcium supplement

Type
Over-the-counter

Frequent Side Effects
Low blood magnesium, constipation, Nausea

Dangerous Side Effects
High blood calcium, kidney stones

Drug Interactions
Do not use with Estramustine, a prostate cancer drug. Do not give within 2 hours of a phosphate supplement. Do not use with Sodium Polystyrene (used to lower potassium levels). Affects the absorption and metabolism of many drugs. Check with your doctor prior to using.
Generic Name
Aspirin

Brand Name
N/A

Use
Pain relief, especially for headaches
Reduction of swelling and inflammation in arthritis and injuries
Anti-coagulant given to sufferers of heart attack, mini-stroke, and unstable angina
Can reduce severity of heart attack if taken at first symptoms
Recovery after cardiovascular surgery
Rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, and other rheumatoid diseases
Preventive against heart attack and stroke
Blood thinner on a preventive basis

Type
Over-the-counter

Frequent Side Effects
Upset stomach, rash, ringing in the ears, Gout (elevated uric acid), bruising.

Dangerous Side Effects
Serious allergic reaction, bleeding, GI perforation, depression of bone marrow leading to anemia and other blood problems, kidney toxicity, liver toxicity, Aspirin poisoning, Reye’s Syndrome in children.

Drug Interactions
Do not give to children to control pain/fever from vaccinations (to avoid risk of Reye's syndrome, severe brain and liver damage). Do not use in conjunction with other NSAIDs (Non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs). Interacts with a wide variety of medications. Check with your doctor prior to using.
Generic Name
Aripiprazole

Brand Name
Abilify

Use
Antipsychotic
Bipolar Disorder
Major Depressive Disorder
Irritability associated with Autism

Type
Prescription

Frequent Side Effects
Headache, sleepiness/fatigue, anxiety, dizziness, constipation, fast heart beat, liver toxicity, dry mouth, incontinence, blurred vision, excess saliva, weight gain.

Dangerous Side Effects
Mortality Risk in elderly dementia patients; risk of suicide in children and adolescents especially during the first month of therapy; severe low blood pressure/fainting; Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (delirium, muscle rigidity, fever); Tardive dyskinesia and other extrapyramidal effects (involuntary movements that can be a permanent problem); diabetes, seizures, stroke, intestinal problems including obstruction, fever, Gall bladder/liver problems, severe allergic drug reactions, suicidal thoughts, bone marrow depression that may lead to severe low white blood cell count; high blood pressure/low blood pressure, worsening depression.

Drug Interactions
Do not use with Sodium Oxybate, a central nervous system depressant that is often abused under the name GHB. Can lead to CNS depression; interacts with a very wide variety of drugs including antiseizure and heart medications; should only be used in conjunction with close medical monitoring and complete record of all medications taken by the patient.
**Generic Name**
Ferrous Sulfate – Iron

**Brand Name**
N/A

**Use**
Treatment of Anemia

**Type**
Over-the-counter

**Frequent Side Effects**
Stomach upset, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea/constipation, dark stools.

**Dangerous Side Effects**
None at therapeutic dose, unless given chronically; highly toxic in overdose.

**Drug Interactions**
With protonics, use alternative or give one hour before use of H2 inhibitors.
Generic Name
Lorazepam

Brand Name
Ativan

Use
Anti-anxiety
Insomnia
Epilepsy
Irritable Bowel Syndrome
Nausea and vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy
Agitation associated with alcohol withdrawal

Type
Prescription

Frequent Side Effects
Sleepiness, dizziness/poor balance, low blood pressure, tremor/rigidity, dry mouth, GI symptoms.

Dangerous Side Effects
Dependency/abuse, withdrawal syndrome, respiratory depression or failure, seizures, depression/suicidal thoughts, severe allergic reaction.

Drug Interactions
Do not use with Sodium Oxybate, a central nervous system depressant that is often abused under the name GHB. Can lead to CNS depression; interacts with a very wide variety of drugs including antiseizure, antihistamine and psychotropic medications; should only be used in conjunction with close medical monitoring and complete record of all medications taken by the patient.
Generic Name
Levetiracetam

Brand Name
Keppra

Use
Anticonvulsant
Used “off label” in autism for aggression and ADD/ADHD symptoms
Used “off label” for migraine headaches

Type
Prescription

Frequent Side Effects
Sleepiness, dizziness/confusion, amnesia, vertigo/poor balance, weakness, irritability and behavior changes, nausea/diarrhea.

Dangerous Side Effects
Withdrawal seizures, depression/suicidal thoughts, hostility/aggression, psychosis, low white cell blood count.

Drug Interactions
When patient with renal disease is taking Sevelamer (aka Renagel) to control phosphate, give Levetiracetam 1 hour before or 3 hours after dose of Sevelamer. Combination may reduce level of anticonvulsant.
Generic Name
Lamotrigine

Brand Name
Lamictal

Use
Anticonvulsant
Bipolar Disorder - used to lengthen time between episodes of depression and mania

Type
Prescription

Frequent Side Effects
Dizziness, sleepiness, blurred vision/double vision, dry mouth, headache, poor balance, weakness, runny nose/sore throat/cough, vomiting, diarrhea/constipation, menstrual changes.

Dangerous Side Effects
May produce serious rash (Stevens Johnson Syndrome) that, if untreated, can lead to disfigurement or death. Usually occurs in first weeks of use, but can occur at any time. If rash develops, stop the drug and call your doctor; cleft lip/palate if taken in 1st trimester, withdrawal seizures, depression of bone marrow leading to anemia and other blood problems; depression, liver failure, muscle breakdown, sudden death.

Drug Interactions
Oral contraceptives with estrogens and/or progestins may decrease the plasma concentration and pharmacological effect of lamotrigine; can cause increase in seizures or if oral contraceptive discontinued may result in lamotrigine toxicity; Interacts with a very wide variety of drugs including antiseizure, antibiotic and psychotropic medications; should only be used in conjunction with close medical monitoring and complete record of all medications taken by the patient.
**Generic Name**
Diphenhydramine Hydrochloride

**Brand Name**
Benadryl

**Use**
Anti-allergy  
Sleep aid  
Anti-anxiety  
Counteract Nausea  
Used to counteract the movement disorder side effects of many antipsychotic medications

**Type**
Over-the-counter

**Frequent Side Effects**
Drowsiness, dizziness/poor balance, headache, cough due to thick secretions, dry mouth, excitement (paradoxical effect), constipation, urinary retention, low blood pressure, vision changes, rapid heartbeat, sweating, erectile dysfunction.

**Dangerous Side Effects**
Severe Allergic Reaction, depression of bone marrow leading to blood abnormalities, heart arrhythmia, seizures, inner ear inflammation leading to vertigo, toxic psychosis.

**Drug Interactions**
Do not use with solid potassium chloride or potassium citrate pills; GI motility is delayed with potential risk for GI injury, ulceration and bleeding. Do not use with MAO inhibitors (this includes many drugs previously used to treat depression, but now mostly supplanted by drugs like Prozac); may intensify anticholinergic effects like urinary retention, rapid heart rate and vision changes; do not use with Sodium Oxybate, a central nervous system depressant that is often abused under the name GHB; can lead to CNS depression; may overly enhance the effects of many drugs including opiates.
Generic Name
Lansoprazole

Brand Name
Prevacid

Use
Stomach acid reducer
Gastro-Esophageal Reflux Disease
Ulcers

Type
Over-the-counter

Frequent Side Effects
Headache, diarrhea/constipation

Dangerous Side Effects
Recent data suggest long term use or use of high doses may predispose to fractures of hip, wrist and spine, especially in individual older than 50. Severe allergic reactions, liver toxicity, kidney toxicity, bone marrow depression leading to changes in blood cell counts.

Drug Interactions
Do not use with Atazanavir (aka Reyataz), a drug for AIDS at the same time since absorption will be affected – allow 12 hours to pass. This drug can affect the absorption of many drugs adversely and may prevent adequate drug levels for effective treatment; should only be used in conjunction with close medical monitoring and complete record of all medications taken by the patient.
Generic Name
Trazodone Hydrochloride

Brand Name
Deseryl

Use
Major Depressive Disorder
Sleep aid - off label

Type
Prescription

Frequent Side Effects
Sleepiness, dizziness/fainting/poor balance, confusion, dry mouth, vision changes, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea/constipation, swelling, rash, muscle/joint aches, weight change, sexual dysfunction.

Dangerous Side Effects
Suicide risk increased in children, adolescents and young adults, especially in first month of therapy; assess risk versus benefits and monitor closely; Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (delirium, muscle rigidity, fever); prolonged erection (priapism) – can be severe; high blood pressure/low blood pressure; fainting, heart attack and arrhythmia, bleeding due to low platelets, low sodium level, severe allergic reaction, withdrawal syndrome.

Drug Interactions
This drug has many interactions with a wide range of drugs. Many of these interactions can lead to EKG abnormalities and then to heart attack or arrhythmia; should only be used in conjunction with close medical monitoring and complete record of all medications taken by the patient.
**Generic Name**
Folic Acid

**Brand Name**
N/A

**Use**
- Low folic acid blood levels
- Adjunctive in treatment of poor absorption in conditions such as ulcerative colitis, liver disease, alcoholism and kidney dialysis
- To prevent miscarriage and “neural tube defects”
- Possibly preventive of colon cancer and cervical cancer, heart disease and stroke
- Memory loss, Alzheimer’s disease, age-related hearing loss, preventing age-related Macular degeneration of the eye, Gum infections

**Type**
Over-the-counter

**Frequent Side Effects**
- Wide range of GI symptoms, altered sleep, irritability, rash/itching.

**Dangerous Side Effects**
None

**Drug Interactions**
- Bile acid binding resins like Cholestyramine interferes with absorption of Folic Acid.
  - Give Folic Acid 1 hour before or 4-6 hours after. Should not be used in undiagnosed anemia; can obscure diagnosis of pernicious anemia by alleviating hematologic abnormalities while neurologic symptoms progress.
Generic Name
Topiramate

Brand Name
Topamax

Use
Migraine
Anticonvulsant
Bipolar Disorder - off label

Type
Prescription

Frequent Side Effects
Tingling/ decreased sensation, sleepiness, dizziness/poor balance, weight loss, fatigue, cognitive impairment, sometimes quite significant, depression, abdominal pain, hair loss, urinary tract infection.

Dangerous Side Effects
This drug inhibits an important enzyme called carbonic anhydrase, and so can lead to kidney stones and severe metabolic acidosis. Osteomalacia/Osteoporosis; growth suppression in children, visual changes poor sweating/elevated temperature, diabetes, Psychosis, suicidal thoughts, fainting, anemia, severe allergic response including Stevens – Johnson Syndrome and pemphigus; a blistering skin reaction, liver toxicity /pancreatic toxicity, clotting/pulmonary embolus.

Drug Interactions
Do not use with other carbonic anhydrase inhibitor, such as Acetazolamide and Methazolamide, since that will increase the risk of kidney stones. This drug may impair the effectiveness of oral contraceptives. This drug has many interactions with a wide range of drugs, including many psychoactive drugs; should only be used in conjunction with close medical monitoring and complete record of all medications taken by the patient.
Generic Name
Fluoxetine Hydrochloride

Brand Name
Prozac

Use
Antidepressant of the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) class
Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, for children
Major Depressive Disorder
Bulimia Nervosa
Panic Disorder
This drug has been used for a wide variety of conditions in an “off label” fashion including fibromyalgia, arthritis, chronic fatigue, multiple sclerosis, bipolar depression, lupus, headaches, irritable bowel syndrome, ADD/ADHD and premature ejaculation

Type
Prescription

Frequent Side Effects
Nausea, diarrhea/constipation, poor appetite/weight loss, upset stomach, headache, anxiety, insomnia, nervousness, dizziness, weakness/fatigue, tremor, dry mouth, sweating, vision changes, rash, ejaculatory dysfunction, decreased libido or sexual desire.

Dangerous Side Effects
Suicide risk increased in children, adolescents and young adults, especially in first month of therapy; assess risk versus benefits and monitor closely; worsening depression/Suicidal thoughts; Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (delirium, muscle rigidity, fever); Withdrawal syndrome; Movement disorders, mania, seizures, low blood sodium, low blood sugar, severe allergic reactions including rash and serum sickness (widespread internal vasculitis), lung fibrosis, growth retardation in children; Neonatal withdrawal if mothers are taking Fluoxetine in the third trimester, including persistent pulmonary.

Drug Interactions
Fluoxetine is contraindicated in individuals taking monoamine oxidase inhibitors, pimozide (Orap) or thioridazine (Mellaril), due to a change in metabolism that can increase the effective dose of Fluoxetine. Ibuprofen used in combination with Fluoxetine can cause significant intestinal bleeding after a period of use. This drug has many interactions with a wide range of drugs, including many psychoactive drugs; should only be used in conjunction with close medical monitoring and complete record of all medications taken by the patient.