

Drugs that are considered to be **SAFE** for use in the acute porphyrias

This safe list was produced jointly by staff at Welsh Medicines Information Centre (WMIC) and Cardiff Porphyria Service and is supported by the National Acute Porphyria Service (NAPS). This safe list provides guidance on first choice medication and is not intended to be comprehensive.

N.B. Some drugs may be included under their group name and not their individual drug name.

Abciximab	Cyclizine	Insulins	Penicillins ⁵
ACE Inhibitors	Cyclophentiazide	Iodine based contrast media	Pethidine
Acetazolamide	Cycloserine	Iron	Phenylephrine
Acetylcysteine	Dabigatran	Isoflurane	Phosphate salts
Aciclovir	Desferrioxamine	Isosorbide mononitrate	Pramipexole
Adenosine	Desflurane	Ketoprofen	Pregabalin
Adrenaline	Desloratadine	Lacosamide	Prilocaine
Alfentanil	Dextromethorphan	Lamotrigine	Primaquine
Alginate	Diamorphine	Laxatives	Prochlorperazine
Allopurinol	Diazepam	Leflunomide	Proguanil
Almotriptan	Dicycloverine	Levetiracetam	Promethazine
Aluminium salts	Digoxin	Levomepromazine	Propofol ⁴
Amiloride	Dihydrocodeine	Levothyroxine sodium	Propylthiouracil
Aminoglycosides	Dinoprostone	Lidocaine ³	Pseudoephedrine
Amisulpride	Diphenhydramine	Linezolid	Pyrazinamide
Amitriptyline	Dipyridamole	Lithium	Pyridostigmine
Amlodipine	Dobutamine	Loperamide	Quinine
Amphotericin	Domperidone	Loratadine	Quinolones ⁶
Angiotensin II inhibitors	Dopamine	Lorazepam	Ranitidine
Antimuscarinic bronchodilators	Doxazosin	Magnesium salts	Remifentanyl
Articaine	Doxycycline	Mebeverine	Retigabine
Aspirin	Duloxetine	Mefloquine	Rivaroxaban
Atomoxetine	Epinephrine	Melatonin	Rivastigmine
Atovaquone	Eplerenone	Meloxicam	Selective beta ₂ agonists
Atropine	Epoetin & analogues	Memantine	Sevelamer
Azathioprine	Etanercept	Mepivacaine	Sildenafil
Azithromycin	Ethambutol	Mesalazine	Sodium bicarbonate
Aztreonam	Etoricoxib	Metformin	Sodium fusidate
Baclofen	Ezetimibe	Methadone	Solifenacin
Balsalazide	Famciclovir	Methotrexate	Statins
Barium sulphate	Felodipine	Methylphenidate	Strontium
Bendroflumethiazide	Fentanyl	Metoclopramide	Sulpiride
Beta-blockers	Fexofenadine	Metronidazole	Suxamethonium
Bisphosphonates	Fibrates ¹	Midazolam ⁴	Tacrolimus
Bumetanide	Fibrinolytic drugs	Mizolastine	Tadalafil
Bupivacaine	Flucytosine	Monoclonal antibodies	Teicoplanin
Buprenorphine	Flumazenil	Morphine	Temazepam
Calcium salts	Fluoxetine	Moxonidine	Terazosin
Carbapenems	Fluphenazine	Muscle relaxants non-depolarising	Tetracosactide
Carbimazole	Fondaparinux	Mycophenolate salts	Theophylline
Carboprost	FSH ²	Naftidrofuryl	Tirofiban
Caspofungin	Furosemide	Naloxone	Tolterodine
Celecoxib	Gabapentin	Naproxen	Tramadol
Cephalosporins	Ganciclovir	Neostigmine	Tranexamic acid
Cetirizine	G-CSF	Nicotine replacement therapy	Trifluoperazine
Chloroquine	Gemprost	Nifedipine	Ursodeoxycholic acid
Chlorphenamine	Glipizide	Nitrous oxide	Vaccines ⁷
Chlorpromazine	Glucagon	Noradrenaline/Norepinephrine	Valaciclovir
Ciclosporin	Glucosamine	Nystatin	Valganciclovir
Cimetidine	Glycerol trinitrate	Octreotide	Vancomycin
Clobazam	Glycopyrronium	Olanzapine	Venlafaxine
Clomifene	Gonadorelin (LHRH) & analogues ²	Omeprazole	Vigabatrin
Clonazepam	Granisetron	Ondansetron	Vitamins
Clonidine	Haloperidol	Orlistat	Warfarin
Clozapine	HCG ²	Oseltamivir	Zanamivir
Co-amoxiclav	Heparin	Oxycodone	Zinc preparations
Codeine phosphate	Heparins-low molecular weight	Oxytocin	Zonisamide
Colchicine	Hyoscine salts	Pantoprazole	Zopiclone
Colestipol	Ibuprofen	Paracetamol	
Colestyramine	Immunoglobulins	Paraldehyde	
Corticosteroids	Indometacin	Penicillamine	

*Written April 2014
Review April 2015*

1. Ciprofibrate has not been classified and should not be used.
2. Gonadotrophins (FSH, LH, HCG), gonadorelin (LHRH) and analogues can stimulate a transient increase in sex hormone levels, which may precipitate an acute porphyria attack. Ovulation suppression therapy to prevent recurrent porphyria attacks should only be initiated in liaison with a porphyria specialist.
3. Intravenous doses should be avoided.

4. Clinical safety has not been assessed for continuous use of these preparations.
5. Pivmecillinam considered unsafe; temocillin and ticarcillin – not classified; conflicting safety information for flucloxacillin. Contact WMIC for further advice.
6. Nalidixic acid is unsafe and should not be used.
7. An acute attack has been reported following yellow fever vaccine, so caution should be observed when using any live vaccine in adults.

All topical preparations (including topical antifungals, lice treatments & eye drops) are considered safe, when applied to intact skin or mucosa.

Anaesthesia & peri-operative drugs

Articaine
Atropine
Bupivacaine
Desflurane
Isoflurane
Lidocaine³
Mepivacaine
Midazolam⁴
Muscle relaxants non-depolarising
Neostigmine
Nitrous oxide
Prilocaine
Propofol⁴
Remifentanil
Suxamethonium

Analgesics

Alfentanil
Aspirin
Buprenorphine
Celecoxib
Codeine phosphate
Diamorphine
Dihydrocodeine
Etoricoxib
Fentanyl
Ibuprofen
Indometacin
Ketoprofen
Meloxicam
Methadone
Morphine
Naproxen
Oxycodone
Paracetamol
Pethidine
Tramadol

Antibacterial agents

Aminoglycosides
Azithromycin
Aztreonam
Carbapenems
Cephalosporins
Co-amoxiclav
Cycloserine
Doxycycline
Ethambutol
Linezolid
Metronidazole
Penicillins⁵
Pyrazinamide
Quinolones⁶
Sodium fusidate
Teicoplanin
Vancomycin

Anticonvulsants

Clobazam
Clonazepam
Gabapentin
Lacosamide
Lamotrigine
Levetiracetam
Paraldehyde
Pregabalin
Retigabine

Vigabatrin
Zonisamide

Antidepressants

Amitriptyline
Duloxetine
Fluoxetine
Venlafaxine

Anti-emetics

Cyclizine
Domperidone
Granisetron
Metoclopramide
Ondansetron
Prochlorperazine

Antifungals/Antivirals

Aciclovir
Amphotericin
Caspofungin
Famciclovir
Flucytosine
Ganciclovir
Nystatin
Oseltamivir
Valaciclovir
Valganciclovir
Zanamivir

Antihistamines

Cetirizine
Chlorphenamine
Desloratadine
Diphenhydramine
Fexofenadine
Loratadine
Mizolastine
Promethazine

Antipsychotics

Amisulpride
Chlorpromazine
Clozapine
Fluphenazine
Haloperidol
Olanzapine
Sulpiride
Trifluoperazine

Cardiovascular agents

Abciximab
ACE Inhibitors
Adenosine
Adrenaline
Amiloride
Amlodipine
Angiotensin II inhibitors
Bendroflumethiazide
Beta-blockers
Bumetanide
Cyclopenthiiazide
Dabigatran
Digoxin
Dipyridamole
Dobutamine
Dopamine
Doxazosin

Epinephrine
Eplerenone
Felodipine
Fibrinolytic drugs
Furosemide
Glyceryl trinitrate
Isosorbide mononitrate
Moxonidine
Naftidrofuryl
Nifedipine
Noradrenaline/Norepinephrine
Rivaroxaban
Terazosin
Tirofiban
Warfarin

Gastro-intestinal drugs

Alginate
Balsalazide
Cimetidine
Dicycloverine
Laxatives
Loperamide
Mebeverine
Mesalazine
Omeprazole
Pantoprazole
Ranitidine

Immunosuppressants

Azathioprine
Ciclosporin
Corticosteroids
Methotrexate
Monoclonal antibodies
Mycophenolate salts
Tacrolimus

Lipid lowering agents

Colestipol
Colestyramine
Ezetimibe
Fibrates¹
Statins

Malaria Prophylaxis

Atovaquone
Chloroquine
Mefloquine
Proguanil

Obs, Gynae & Fertility Drugs

Carboprost
Clomifene
Dinoprostone
FSH²
Gemeprost
Gonadorelin (LHRH) & analogues²
HCG²
Oxytocin

Other

Acetazolamide
Acetylcysteine
Allopurinol
Almotriptan
Aluminium salts
Antimuscarinic bronchodilators

Atomoxetine
Baclofen
Barium sulphate
Bisphosphonates
Calcium salts
Carbimazole
Clonidine
Colchicine
Desferrioxamine
Dextromethorphan
Diazepam
Epoetin and analogues
Etanercept
Flumazenil
Fondaparinux
G-CSF
Glipizide
Glucagon
Glucosamine
Glycopyrronium
Heparin
Heparins-low molecular weight
Hyoscine salts
Immunoglobulins
Insulins
Iodine based contrast media
Iron
Leflunomide
Levomepromazine
Levothyroxine sodium
Lithium
Lorazepam
Magnesium salts
Melatonin
Memantine
Metformin
Methylphenidate
Naloxone
Nicotine replacement therapy
Octreotide
Orlistat
Penicillamine
Phenylephrine
Phosphate salts
Pramipexole
Primaquine
Propylthiouracil
Pseudoephedrine
Pyridostigmine
Quinine
Rivastigmine
Selective beta₂ agonists
Sevelamer
Sildenafil
Sodium bicarbonate
Solifenacin
Strontium
Tadalafil
Temazepam
Tetracosactide
Theophylline
Tolterodine
Tranexamic acid
Ursodeoxycholic acid
Vaccines⁷
Vitamins
Zinc preparations
Zopiclone

See over the page for explanation of footnotes

This safe list is based on the best information available to us at the time of compilation. Inclusion of a drug does not guarantee that it will be safe in all circumstances. For information on medication not listed and advice on the use of antiretrovirals, antineoplastics or other complex treatment scenarios please contact WMIC by telephone (02920 743877) or by fax (02920 743879). Unfortunately we are unable to accept enquiries via e-mail. Healthcare professionals requiring clinical advice on management of acute porphyria attacks should contact NAPS on 02920 747747.