

Extended Version

Table 5 Drug classes associated with preventable drug-related admissions due to adherence problems

British National Formulary Class	Adverse drug event	Problem	Number of cases
Loop diuretics	Congestive cardiac failure	Not taking medication*	8
	Ascites		1
	Dehydration	Taking too much	1
Subtotal			10
Antiepileptics	Fitting	Not taking medication	7
Corticosteroids	Exacerbation of asthma	Not taking medication	7
Nitrates	Chest pain	Not taking medication*	5
Insulins	Hyperglycaemia	Not taking medication	3
	Hypoglycaemia	Not eating and continuing to use same dose of insulin	2
Subtotal			5
Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors	Congestive cardiac failure	Not taking medication*	3
	Cerebrovascular attack	Stopped taking antihypertensives*	1
Subtotal			4
Beta-adrenoceptor blocking drugs	Chest pain	Not taking medication*	2
	Fast atrial fibrillation	Not taking medication	1
	Cerebrovascular attack	Stopped taking antihypertensives*	1
Subtotal			4
Cardiac glycosides	Fast atrial fibrillation	Not taking digoxin	3
Antiplatelet drugs	Gastrointestinal bleed	Not taking omeprazole prescribed for probable gastrointestinal bleed	1
	Unstable angina	Not taking medication	1
Subtotal			2
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs	Gastrointestinal bleed	Self-medicating with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug with history of gastrointestinal toxicity	2
Potassium-sparing diuretics	Ascites	Not taking medication*	2
	Congestive cardiac failure		
Sulphonylureas	Hypoglycaemic collapse	Marked reduction in food intake but continuing to take glibenclamide	1
		Had diarrhoea and vomiting but continued with the same dose of gliclazide	1
Subtotal			2
Thiazides and related drugs	Cerebrovascular attack	Not taking medication*	1
	Dehydration	Taking metolazone daily instead of 3 times weekly	1
Subtotal			2
Potassium-channel activators	Chest pain	Not taking medication*	2
Oral anticoagulants	Deep vein thrombosis	Not taking medication	1
	Epistaxis	Drinking copious quantities of alcohol with warfarin	1
Subtotal			2
Parenteral anticoagulants	Recurrence of thrombosis	Stopped taking medication	2
Proton pump inhibitors	Gastrointestinal bleed	Stopped taking medication	2

British National Formulary Class	Adverse drug event	Problem	Number of cases
Calcium-channel blockers	Chest pain	Not taking medication*	1
Glucocorticoids	Rejection of renal transplant	Not taking immunosuppressants	1
Serotonin selective re-uptake inhibitors	Serotonin selective re-uptake inhibitor withdrawal syndrome	Sudden cessation of paroxetine	1
Drugs used in substance dependence	Fitting	Taking double the maximum dose	1
Thyroid hormones	Hypothyroidism	Stopped taking medication	1
Drugs for the treatment of gout	Diarrhoea	Continuing to take colchicine whilst having diarrhoea	1
Total			69*

*This figure is higher than the total number of drug-related admissions associated with adherence problems because if a drug related admission involves more than one causative drug it may be recorded more than once in the table.