

What drugs should be taken before your operation/procedure?

Here is some general information regarding which medications can be taken in the days leading up to and on the day of your surgery/procedure, and which medications shouldn't be taken. You will receive written information from your POAC nurse, pharmacist and/or anaesthetist about when specific drugs must be stopped before surgery.

Your medications have been categorised using the Traffic Light System:

GREEN	Medications that <u>should ALWAYS be taken as normal</u> on the day of your surgery/procedure:
AMBER	These medications require adjustments before surgery.
RED	These medications should not be taken on the day of surgery, and sometimes for a period before surgery (unless specifically advised by a nurse, pharmacist or anaesthetist from the Pre-Operative Assessment Clinic).

Medications that **should ALWAYS be taken as normal** on the day of your surgery/procedure:

What is the medication used for?	Type of medications	Name(s) of medications
Acid suppression	Proton Pump Inhibitors	Omeprazole, lansoprazole, pantoprazole.
	H2 receptor blockers	Famotidine.
High blood pressure	Calcium channel blockers	Amlodipine, lercanidipine, lacidipine, nifedipine, diltiazem, verapamil.
High cholesterol/lipids	Statins	Atorvastatin, simvastatin, rosuvastatin, pravastatin.
	Cholesterol absorption inhibitor	Ezetimibe.
	Fibrates	Fenofibrate.
Heart failure, irregular heart rate, high heart rate, high blood pressure	Beta blockers	Bisoprolol, atenolol, nebivolol, metoprolol, propranolol, carvedilol, sotalol.
Irregular heart beat (arrhythmia)	Anti-arrhythmic	Amiodarone, dronedarone. Digoxin.
Angina (chest pain)	Nitrates	Isosorbide mononitrate.
	Potassium channel activator	Nicorandil.
Depression and/or anxiety	SSRIs	Sertraline, citalopram.
	SNRIs	Mirtazapine, venlafaxine.
	TCA's	Amitriptyline
Epilepsy/seizures	All types of anti-epileptic drugs	Sodium valproate (Epilim), carbamazepine (Tegretol), levetiracetam (Keppra), lamotrigine, phenytoin.
Parkinson's medications	Dopamine replacement	Co-careldopa (Sinemet) Co-beneldopa (Madopar)
	Dopamine receptor agonists	Ropinirole, pramipexole, rotigotine.
	Monoamine oxidase-B inhibitors	Rasageline, selegiline.
Asthma/COPD	Inhalers	Preventers and relievers
	Tablets	Montelukast
Steroids (COPD, polymyalgia rheumatica, Addison's, inflammatory bowel disease, some cancers).	Tablets	Prednisolone, hydrocortisone.
Pain killers	Opiates	Codeine/co-codamol (Zapain), tramadol, morphine (MST, Zomorph), oxycodone (Longtec/Shortec), buprenorphine patches, fentanyl patches.

	Other	Pregabalin, gabapentin, paracetamol.
Thyroid	Thyroxine replacement	Levothyroxine
	Thyroid blockers	Carbimazole
Diabetes	GLP-1 analogues	Liraglutide, exenatide, dulaglutide, semaglutide.

These medications require adjustments before surgery:

What is the medication used for?	Type of medication	Name(s) of medications	Can changes need to made before surgery?
Anti-inflammatory/pain killer	NSAIDs	Ibuprofen, naproxen, diclofenac	Can be continued apart from those undergoing neuro, spinal, cardiac and orthopaedic surgery.
Blood thinner	Antiplatelet	Aspirin	75mg dose continued EXCEPT in spinal/neuro surgery.
Diabetes	Insulin	Lantus, Tresiba, NovoRapid, NovoMix, Humulin I, Humulin M3 etc.	You will receive advice from your POAC nurse/pharmacist/anaesthetist.
	Anti-diabetic tablets	Metformin Gliclazide, glibenclamide etc. Linagliptin, sitagliptin	
Water tablet	Diuretics	Bendroflumethiazide, furosemide.	Not to taken in certain circumstances. You will be advised by your POAC nurse/pharmacist/anaesthetist.
Contraception/HRT	Oral contraceptives and HRT tablets	Oestrogen containing tablets	You will be advised by your POAC nurse/pharmacist/anaesthetist.
Auto-immune diseases	Immunosuppressants	Azathioprine Tacrolimus Methotrexate Hydroxychloroquine Leflunomide Sulfasalazine Mycophenolate Ciclosporin Biologics, aka “mabs” (e.g. rituximab, vedolizumab etc.)	You will be advised by your POAC nurse/pharmacist/anaesthetist.

The following medications should not be taken on the day of surgery, and sometimes for a period before surgery (unless specifically advised by a nurse, pharmacist or anaesthetist from the Pre-Operative Assessment Clinic):

What is the medication used for?	Type of medication	Name(s) of medications	When is the last dose before surgery?
Blood thinner	Some antiplatelets	Clopidogrel, prasugrel, ticagrelor	You will be advised by your POAC nurse, pharmacist or anaesthetist.
Blood pressure	ACE inhibitors (“prils”)	Ramipril, enalapril, perindopril, lisinopril	The day before. Not to be taken on the day of surgery.
Blood pressure	Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers (“sartans”) (Blood pressure medication)	Losartan, irbesartan, Candesartan	The day before. Not to be taken on the day of surgery.
Antipsychotic	Antipsychotic	Lithium	The day before. Not to be taken on the day of surgery
Antipsychotic	Antipsychotic	Clozapine	The night before day of surgery. Not to be taken on the morning of surgery
Blood thinner	Anticoagulants	Apixaban, Edoxaban. Dabigatran, Rivaroxaban, Warfarin	You will be advised by your POAC nurse, pharmacist or anaesthetist.
Blood thinner	Low Molecular Weight Heparins (LMWH) (Blood thinner)	Enoxaparin, Dalteparin, Tinzaparin	You will be advised by your POAC nurse, pharmacist or anaesthetist.
Diabetes and/or heart failure	SGLT2 inhibitors (“flozins”)	Canagliflozin, Dapagliflozin, Empagliflozin, Ertugliflozin	2 days before surgery. Not to be taken on the day of surgery. You will be advised by your POAC nurse, pharmacist or anaesthetist.
Alzheimer’s Disease and Parkinson’s Disease	Centrally acting anticholinesterases	Galantamine, Rivastigmine	The day before surgery. Not to be taken on the day of surgery