



Patient Resources

Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)

What is an NSAID? NSAIDs are medications used to relieve pain and in prescription versions, reduce inflammation. Before taking any type of NSAID, you should tell your doctor if you:

- Are pregnant, or may become pregnant
- Are 65 or older
- Drink heavily*
- Have heart, liver, kidney, GI or blood pressure problems
- Have asthma, chronic lung disease, reflux disease, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis or an active infection

*Heavy drinking is defined by the US Department of Health and Human Services as 5 or more alcoholic drinks for males and 4 or more alcoholic drinks for females within a couple of hours, at least 5 or more days in one month.

General Information

Availability	Over the Counter (OTC) and Prescription (Rx)
<p>⚠ Caution</p>	<p>⚠ All NSAIDs (except aspirin) may increase the risk of heart attack or stroke. The risk increases the longer the NSAID is used, and people with cardiovascular disease are at the greatest risk.</p> <p>⚠ NSAIDs also increase the risk of gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding.</p> <p>⚠ NSAIDs can cause severe allergic reactions (hives, facial swelling, difficulty breathing, wheezing) especially in people with asthma, sinus problems or small growths in the nose.</p>
<p>⊗ STOP taking your NSAID and tell your doctor immediately if you experience:</p>	<p>Dark or bloody stool or urine; yellow skin or eyes; unusual weight gain; itching or rash with a fever; scaly skin eruptions, painful red or purplish rash; swelling of the arms, legs, hands and feet; lightheadedness or balance problems</p>
<p>Special Instructions</p>	<p>For extended release tablets, swallow whole, do not crush</p>
<p>Side Effects*</p>	<p>Nausea, indigestion, vomiting, gas; abdominal pain, diarrhea, constipation, flatulence; itching, rash; headache; high blood pressure</p>
<p>Drug Interactions</p>	<p>ACE-inhibitors; antibiotics; antimanic agents (mood stabilizers); biologics, blood pressure medicines; blood thinners; corticosteroids; diuretics (water pills); DMARDs; fluconazole; lithium; medicines that affect live enzymes; St. John’s Wort; sunscreen or lotion</p>

* Side effects vary by medication and *may* include

Drug	Form	Frequency
Aspirin	OTC: Anacin, Bayer, Bufferin, Ecotrin, generic (tablet)	Every 4 to 6 hours
Diclofenac epolamine	OTC: Flexor (topical patch)	Twice a day
Diclofenac potassium	Rx: Cataflam, Zipsor, Zorvolex, generic (tablet, capsule, powder)	2 to 4 times a day
Diclofenac sodium	Rx: Voltaren, Voltaren-XR (tablet), Pennsaid, Voltaren Gel, generic (gel)	Once a day (tablet), 4 times a day (gel)
Diflunisal	Rx: generic only (tablet)	Twice a day
Etodolac	Rx: generic only (capsule, regular or extended-release tablet)	2 to 3 times a day (regular) Once a day (extended-release)
Fenoprofen calcium	Rx: Nalfon, generic (capsule)	3 or 4 times a day
Flurbiprofen	Rx: Ansaid, generic (tablet), Ocufer (eye drops)	2 to 3 times a day
Ibuprofen	Rx: Addaprin, Dyspel, Genpril, I-Prin, Motrin, Provil, generic OTC: Advil, Motrin IB, generic (capsule, tablet)	Every 4 to 6 hours
Ibuprofen with famotidine	Rx: Duexis (tablet)	3 times a day
Indomethacin	Rx: Indocin, Tivorbex, generic (extended-release capsule, syrup, suppository)	2 to 4 times a day (syrup, suppository) Once a day (extended-release)
Ketoprofen	Rx: generic only (regular or extended-release capsule)	3 to 4 times a day (regular) Once a day (extended-release)
Meclofenamate sodium	Rx: generic only (capsule)	3 to 4 times a day
Mefenamic acid	Rx: Ponstel, generic (capsule)	Every 6 hours
Meloxicam	Rx: Mobic, Vivlodex (tablet, syrup)	Once a day
Nabumetone	Rx: generic only (tablet)	Once or twice a day
Naproxen/naproxen sodium	Rx: Anaprox, Anaprox DS, EC-Naprosyn, Naprosyn, Naprelan, generic OTC: Aleve, generic (regular and extended-release tablet, suspension)	Twice a day
Naproxen and esomeprazole magnesium	Rx: Vimovo (extended-release tablet)	Twice a day
Oxaprozin	Rx: Daypro (tablet)	Once a day
Piroxicam	Rx: Feldene, Therafeldamine, generic (tablet)	Once a day
Sulindac	Rx: generic only (tablet)	Twice a day
Tolmetin sodium	Rx: Tolectin, generic (capsule, tablet)	3 to 4 times a day
Celecoxib	Rx: Celebrex (capsule)	Once or twice a day