

# ANTICHOLINERGIC ALERT

Patient \_\_\_\_\_ has received an order for \_\_\_\_\_.  
This medication is potentially inappropriate for use in elderly patients due to its anticholinergic effects.

## Symptoms of anticholinergic effects include:

- Blurred vision
- Constipation
- Drowsiness or sedation
- Dry lips, mouth, or throat, which may lead to speech difficulties, trouble with dentures, and chewing and swallowing problems
- Rapid heart rate
- Trouble urinating or emptying bladder
- Confusion, disorientation
- Dizziness when standing from bed or chair
- Fever
- Nausea
- Nervousness, agitation, or anxiety
- Reddening of the face (flushing)
- Weakness
- Memory impairment
- Hallucinations and delirium

## Medications with anticholinergic effects may also cause, aggravate, or contribute to the following RAP problems:

Delirium	Communication	Behavioral Symptoms
Cognitive	ADLs	Falls
Loss/Dementia	Urinary Incontinence	Dental Care
Visual Function	Mood State	

Anticholinergic side effects may be more likely or more severe if the patient is receiving several medications with anticholinergic effects. **The patient is receiving the following medication(s), which also have anticholinergic effects:**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> amitriptyline (Elavil)     | <input type="checkbox"/> diphenhydramine (Benadryl/Banophen) | <input type="checkbox"/> orphenadrine (Norflex)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> amoxapine (Asendin)        | <input type="checkbox"/> disopyramide (Norpace)              | <input type="checkbox"/> oxybutynin (Ditropan)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> belladonna alkaloids       | <input type="checkbox"/> doxepin (Sinequan)                  | <input type="checkbox"/> procainamide (Pronestyl)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> benztropine                | <input type="checkbox"/> ethopropazine                       | <input type="checkbox"/> prochlorperazine (Compazine) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> biperiden                  | <input type="checkbox"/> flavoxate (Urispas)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> procyclidine                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> chlorpheniramine           | <input type="checkbox"/> fluphenazine (Stelazine)            | <input type="checkbox"/> promethazine (Phenergan)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> chlorpromazine (Thorazine) | <input type="checkbox"/> hydroxyzine (Atarax/Vistaril)       | <input type="checkbox"/> propantheline                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clindinium                 | <input type="checkbox"/> hyoscyamine                         | <input type="checkbox"/> protriptyline (Vivactil)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clomipramine (Anafranil)   | <input type="checkbox"/> imipramine (Tofranil)               | <input type="checkbox"/> quinidine                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clozapine (Clozaril)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Lomotil                             | <input type="checkbox"/> thioridazine (Mellaril)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cyclizine (Marezine)       | <input type="checkbox"/> maprotiline (Ludiomil)              | <input type="checkbox"/> thiothixene (Navane)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cyclobenzaprine (Flexeril) | <input type="checkbox"/> meclizine (Antivert),               | <input type="checkbox"/> trihexyphenidyl              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cyproheptadine (Periactin) | <input type="checkbox"/> metaxalone (Skelaxin)               | <input type="checkbox"/> trimethobenzamide (Tigan)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dicyclomine (Bentyl)       | <input type="checkbox"/> nortriptyline (Pamelor)             | <input type="checkbox"/> trimipramine (Surmontil)     |

## RECOMMENDATION

1. Monitor patient for signs of anticholinergic side effects.
2. Notify physician if any of the symptoms of anticholinergic effects occur.

If you have any questions, please contact \_\_\_\_\_.