Top Drugs for the PTCE

The course's 135-drug master list — the 100 highest-yield drugs from the PTCE 2026 Complete Study Course cheat-sheet pack, plus 35 more brand/generic pairs from the course's core medications list. Learn generic → brand → class → use, in both directions.

Cardiovascular & Renal

Generic	Common Brand	Class	High-Yield Use
lisinopril	Zestril, Prinivil	ACE inhibitor	Hypertension, HF
losartan	Cozaar	ARB	Hypertension, diabetic nephropathy
amlodipine	Norvasc	Calcium channel blocker (DHP)	Hypertension, angina
metoprolol succinate	Toprol-XL	Beta-1 selective blocker (ER)	HF, hypertension
metoprolol tartrate	Lopressor	Beta-1 selective blocker (IR)	Hypertension, post-MI
carvedilol	Coreg	Non-selective beta + alpha blocker	Heart failure
atenolol	Tenormin	Beta-1 selective blocker	Hypertension, angina
furosemide	Lasix	Loop diuretic	Edema, HF
hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ)	Microzide	Thiazide diuretic	Hypertension
spironolactone	Aldactone	Potassium-sparing diuretic (aldosterone antagonist)	HF, ascites
atorvastatin	Lipitor	HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor (statin)	Hyperlipidemia
rosuvastatin	Crestor	Statin	Hyperlipidemia
simvastatin	Zocor	Statin	Hyperlipidemia
clopidogrel	Plavix	Antiplatelet (P2Y12 inhibitor)	Prevent clot/stroke, post-stent
warfarin	Coumadin, Jantoven	Vitamin K antagonist (anticoagulant)	AFib, DVT/PE; INR monitoring
apixaban	Eliquis	Direct oral anticoagulant (Factor Xa inhibitor)	AFib, DVT/PE
rivaroxaban	Xarelto	Direct oral anticoagulant (Factor Xa inhibitor)	AFib, DVT/PE
amiodarone	Cordarone, Pacerone	Antiarrhythmic (Class III)	Ventricular arrhythmias
diltiazem	Cardizem	Non-DHP calcium channel blocker	Hypertension, angina, rate control

digoxin	Lanoxin	Cardiac glycoside	AFib, HF
tamsulosin	Flomax	Alpha-1 blocker	BPH
nitroglycerin sublingual	Nitrostat	Nitrate	Acute angina
isosorbide mononitrate	Imdur	Nitrate	Angina prophylaxis
sacubitril/valsartan	Entresto	ARNI (neprilysin inhibitor + ARB)	Heart failure

Diabetes & Endocrine

Generic	Common Brand	Class	High-Yield Use
metformin	Glucophage	Biguanide	Type 2 diabetes (first line)
insulin glargine	Lantus, Basaglar	Long-acting insulin	Type 1 and 2 diabetes
insulin lispro	Humalog	Rapid-acting insulin	Mealtime glucose control
insulin regular	Humulin R	Short-acting insulin	Diabetes
insulin NPH	Humulin N	Intermediate-acting insulin	Diabetes
empagliflozin	Jardiance	SGLT2 inhibitor	Type 2 diabetes, HF
sitagliptin	Januvia	DPP-4 inhibitor	Type 2 diabetes
glipizide	Glucotrol	Sulfonylurea	Type 2 diabetes
semaglutide	Ozempic, Wegovy	GLP-1 receptor agonist	Type 2 diabetes, weight management
liraglutide	Victoza, Saxenda	GLP-1 receptor agonist	Type 2 diabetes, weight management
levothyroxine	Synthroid	Thyroid hormone (T4)	Hypothyroidism
prednisone	Deltasone	Systemic corticosteroid	Inflammation, asthma, autoimmune
fluticasone propionate	Flonase	Intranasal corticosteroid	Allergic rhinitis
methylprednisolone	Medrol	Systemic corticosteroid	Inflammation

Mental Health & Neurology

Generic	Common Brand	Class	High-Yield Use
sertraline	Zoloft	SSRI	Depression, anxiety
fluoxetine	Prozac	SSRI	Depression, OCD
escitalopram	Lexapro	SSRI	Depression, anxiety
bupropion	Wellbutrin	Aminoketone (NDRI)	Depression; smoking cessation (Zyban)
duloxetine	Cymbalta	SNRI	Depression, neuropathic pain
venlafaxine	Effexor	SNRI	Depression, anxiety
trazodone	Desyrel	Serotonin modulator (SARI)	Depression; off-label insomnia
mirtazapine	Remeron	Tetracyclic antidepressant	Depression; increases appetite

alprazolam	Xanax	Benzodiazepine (C-IV)	Anxiety
lorazepam	Ativan	Benzodiazepine (C-IV)	Anxiety, seizures
diazepam	Valium	Benzodiazepine (C-IV)	Anxiety, muscle spasm, seizures
clonazepam	Klonopin	Benzodiazepine (C-IV)	Seizures, panic disorder
zolpidem	Ambien	Non-benzodiazepine hypnotic (C-IV)	Insomnia
gabapentin	Neurontin	Anticonvulsant (GABA analog)	Neuropathic pain, seizures
pregabalin	Lyrica	Anticonvulsant (C-V)	Neuropathic pain, fibromyalgia
levetiracetam	Keppra	Anticonvulsant	Seizures
phenytoin	Dilantin	Anticonvulsant (hydantoin)	Seizures
amitriptyline	Elavil	Tricyclic antidepressant	Depression; off-label neuropathic pain
lithium	Lithobid	Mood stabilizer	Bipolar disorder
quetiapine	Seroquel	Atypical antipsychotic	Schizophrenia, bipolar disorder
aripiprazole	Abilify	Atypical antipsychotic	Schizophrenia, bipolar disorder
risperidone	Risperdal	Atypical antipsychotic	Schizophrenia, irritability of autism
donepezil	Aricept	Acetylcholinesterase inhibitor	Alzheimer's disease
sumatriptan	Imitrex	Triptan (5-HT1 agonist)	Acute migraine
methylphenidate	Ritalin, Concerta	CNS stimulant (C-II)	ADHD

Pain, Anti-Inflammatory & Anesthesia

Generic	Common Brand	Class	High-Yield Use
ibuprofen	Motrin, Advil	NSAID	Pain, fever, inflammation
naproxen	Naprosyn, Aleve	NSAID	Pain, inflammation
celecoxib	Celebrex	COX-2 selective NSAID	Arthritis pain
meloxicam	Mobic	NSAID (preferential COX-2)	Osteoarthritis
aspirin	Bayer, Ecotrin	NSAID / antiplatelet	Pain, fever; low-dose cardioprotection
acetaminophen	Tylenol	Analgesic/antipyretic (not an NSAID)	Pain, fever
oxycodone	Roxicodone; with APAP = Percocet	Opioid agonist (C-II)	Moderate-severe pain
hydrocodone/ APAP	Vicodin, Norco	Opioid + acetaminophen (C-II)	Moderate-severe pain
oxycodone ER	OxyContin	Long-acting opioid (C-II)	Chronic severe pain
morphine sulfate	MS Contin (ER)	Opioid agonist (C-II)	Severe pain

tramadol	Ultram	Atypical opioid (C-IV)	Moderate pain
methadone	Dolophine	Opioid agonist (C-II)	Opioid use disorder, chronic pain
fentanyl transdermal	Duragesic	Opioid patch (C-II)	Severe chronic pain (opioid-tolerant only)
cyclobenzaprine	Flexeril	Skeletal muscle relaxant	Muscle spasm
tizanidine	Zanaflex	Skeletal muscle relaxant	Muscle spasticity
allopurinol	Zyloprim	Xanthine oxidase inhibitor	Gout (chronic)
colchicine	Colcrys	Antigout	Acute gout flare

Respiratory & Allergy

Generic	Common Brand	Class	High-Yield Use
albuterol	ProAir, Ventolin	SABA inhaler	Acute asthma rescue
salmeterol/ fluticasone	Advair	LABA + ICS inhaler	Asthma maintenance
budesonide/ formoterol	Symbicort	LABA + ICS inhaler	Asthma, COPD maintenance
montelukast	Singulair	Leukotriene receptor antagonist	Asthma prophylaxis, allergies
ipratropium	Atrovent; with albuterol = Combivent	Anticholinergic inhaler	COPD
tiotropium	Spiriva	LAMA inhaler	COPD maintenance
cetirizine	Zyrtec	Second-generation antihistamine	Allergies
loratadine	Claritin	Second-generation antihistamine	Allergies
fexofenadine	Allegra	Second-generation antihistamine	Allergies
guaifenesin	Mucinex	Expectorant	Cough with mucus

GI, Anti-Infective & Miscellaneous

Generic	Common Brand	Class	High-Yield Use
omeprazole	Prilosec	Proton pump inhibitor	GERD, ulcers
pantoprazole	Protonix	Proton pump inhibitor	GERD, GI bleed prophylaxis
famotidine	Pepcid	H2 receptor antagonist	GERD, heartburn
ondansetron	Zofran		

		5-HT3 antagonist (antiemetic)	Nausea/vomiting (chemo, post-op)
amoxicillin	Amoxil	Penicillin antibiotic	Ear, respiratory, dental infections
amoxicillin/clavulanate	Augmentin	Penicillin + beta-lactamase inhibitor	Resistant respiratory/sinus infections
azithromycin	Zithromax (Z-Pak)	Macrolide antibiotic	Respiratory infections, STI
ciprofloxacin	Cipro	Fluoroquinolone antibiotic	UTI, infections; avoid with antacids/dairy
doxycycline	Vibramycin	Tetracycline antibiotic	Acne, Lyme disease, STI; avoid with dairy
trimethoprim/ sulfamethoxazole	Bactrim DS (Sulfamethoxazole/ trimethoprim)	Sulfonamide antibiotic	UTI; avoid in sulfa allergy

35 More High-Yield Pairs from the Course's Core List

Generic	Brand	Class	Typical Use
enalapril	Vasotec	ACE inhibitor	Hypertension
valsartan	Diovan	ARB	Hypertension
irbesartan	Avapro	ARB	Hypertension
nifedipine	Procardia	Calcium channel blocker	Hypertension, angina
metoprolol (tartrate	Lopressor	Beta blocker	Beta blocker
succinate ER)	Toprol-XL	Beta blocker	Beta blocker
glyburide	Diabeta / Glynase	Sulfonylurea	Type 2 diabetes
pioglitazone	Actos	TZD	Type 2 diabetes
dulaglutide	Trulicity	GLP-1 agonist	Type 2 diabetes
insulin aspart	NovoLog	Insulin (rapid)	Diabetes
hydrocodone	Vicodin	Opioid (short-acting combo)	Opioid (short-acting combo)
morphine (ER)	MS Contin	Opioid	Pain
hydromorphone	Dilaudid	Opioid	Pain
buprenorphine/naloxone	Suboxone	Opioid (partial agonist)	Opioid (partial agonist)
divalproex sodium	Depakote	Anticonvulsant	Seizures, nerve pain
carbamazepine	Tegretol	Anticonvulsant	Seizures, nerve pain
olanzapine	Zyprexa	Antipsychotic	Schizophrenia, bipolar disorder
amphetamine/dextroamphetamine	Adderall	Stimulant (C-II)	ADHD
levofloxacin	Levaquin	Fluoroquinolone	Bacterial infection

cephalexin	Keflex	Cephalosporin	Bacterial infection
gentamicin	—	Aminoglycoside	Serious bacterial infection
tobramycin	—	Aminoglycoside	Serious bacterial infection
gentamicin, tobramycin	—	Aminoglycoside	Serious bacterial infection
nitrofurantoin	Macrobid	UTI agent	Urinary tract infection
valacyclovir	Valtrex	Antiviral	Herpes infections
fluticasone	Flovent	Corticosteroid (inhaled)	Asthma
fluticasone nasal	Flonase	Corticosteroid (nasal)	Allergic rhinitis
fluticasone/salmeterol	Advair	LABA + ICS combo	Asthma/COPD maintenance
diphenhydramine	Benadryl	Antihistamine	Allergies
esomeprazole	Nexium	PPI	GERD, ulcers
methimazole	Tapazole	Thyroid (hyper)	Hyperthyroidism
finasteride	Proscar / Propecia	BPH (5-alpha reductase)	BPH (5-alpha reductase)
sildenafil	Viagra	Erectile dysfunction	Erectile dysfunction
tadalafil	Cialis	Erectile dysfunction	Erectile dysfunction
varenicline	Chantix	Smoking cessation	Smoking cessation

Free sample from the PTCE 2026 Complete Study Course (Clinical Pass Lab). The full course adds indications, side effects, interactions, LASA pairs, and practice questions for every domain.