

Heat and Medications

Information Sheet for Health Care Providers

What is the concern?

Extreme heat temperatures may adversely impact patients on specific medications.

This document is intended to alert healthcare providers to the impact that ambient heat may have on patients taking certain medications and to provide recommendations.

What do I need to be aware of?



Heat-related illness can affect everyone, no matter how long someone has lived in Arizona, their age, gender, gender identity, or health issues.



Heat-related illness is a serious medical condition resulting from the body's inability to cope with a particular heat load, and includes heat cramps, heat exhaustion, heat syncope and heat stroke.



An individual's risk for heat-related illness is influenced by many factors including individual health, housing type, living conditions, and pre-existing conditions (to name a few).

Health care providers are recommended to consult the Heat and Medications websites provided by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), the [Arizona Department of Health Services \(ADHS\)](#), and the [Pima County Health Department \(PCHD\)](#) for more information.

Some factors that might increase a patient's risk of developing a heat-related illness include:

- High levels of humidity
- Obesity
- Fever
- Dehydration
- Heart disease
- Mental illness
- Poor circulation
- Sunburn
- Alcohol use
- Certain prescription and non-prescription medications and polypharmacy

Source: [CDC Extreme Heat and Your Health page](#)

The following populations may be at an even higher risk for heat-related illness:

- Children
- Individuals 65+ years old
- Outdoor workers
- Pregnant people
- Individuals with disabilities
- Athletes
- Individuals without air conditioning
- Individuals who are living alone
- Residents of mobile homes
- Individuals with chronic health conditions
- Individuals with substance use disorder/opioid use disorder

Taking certain medications increases the risk of adverse health outcomes for patients.

When individuals are on these types of medications extra education and precautions are necessary. Some medications will interfere with thermoregulation or fluid balance while other medications can increase skin sensitivity to sun exposure.

Included is a consolidated list of medications that increase risks from extreme heat exposure. These include certain cardiovascular medications, anti-seizure medications, antibiotics, and other classes of medications.



How can I help my patients stay safe during extreme heat?

- Ask patients:
 - How do they keep cool in the summertime?
 - Do they have reliable transportation?
 - Do they rely on walking, biking, or public transportation?
 - Do you have someone who can check in on you during periods of extreme heat?
- Provide recommendations on changes to fluid intake based on prescription medications.
- Assess the need to modify medications prescribed and/or their dosage to reduce heat risk.
- Understand what other factors (e.g., living conditions) patients may have that increase their risk of heat-related illness.
- Provide a [list of symptoms](#) patients can watch out for.
- Encourage patients to have a “buddy” plan to have a family member or friend check up on them.
- If possible, offer water while patients wait for their appointments.
- Provide information on area cooling centers, financial support to offset electric costs, and other social services, as needed.

What are other resources I can share with my patients?

Arizona heat and medications resources

- Arizona Poison & Drug Information Center
 - azpoison.com
 - 1-800-222-1222
- Arizona Department of Health Services
 - azdhs.gov/heat
 - Map of cooling centers
- Opioid Assistance and Referral Line
 - azdhs.gov/oarline
 - 1-888-688-4222
- Safe Disposal of Medications
 - azdhs.gov/gis/dump-the-drugs-az

Social services and utility support

- [Arizona Department of Economic Security](#)
 - [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#)
- Wildfire AZ: [Energy Assistance](#)
 - Wildfireaz.org
- 211 Arizona: Rent and Utility Assistance
 - 211Arizona.org
 - 2-1-1
- [County Public Health Departments](#)
- Contexture.org/CommunityCares
- 988LifeLine: 988lifeline.org
 - 9-8-8

This document was developed in collaboration with the ADHS, PCHD, SAPC, and the UArizona as part of the Arizona Heat Preparedness Network's Heat and Medications task force led by the SCORCH Center.



Was this information helpful?

Use the QR code to share your feedback with us.

Consolidated List of Medications

Disclaimer: The list below is for reference purposes only. It is not in any particular order of risk or concern. Healthcare providers are encouraged to utilize their experience and knowledge to assess individual patient risks or concerns.

Psychiatric Medications

Category	Medication
SSRIs	Citalopram (Celexa) Escitalopram (Lexapro) Fluoxetine (Prozac) Paroxetine (Paxil, Pexeva) Sertraline (Zoloft)
SNRIs	Desvenlafaxine (Pristiq) Duloxetine (Cymbalta) Levomilnacipran (Fetzima) Venlafaxine (Effexor XR)
DNRI	Bupropion (Wellbutrin)
TCAs	Amitriptyline
Anticholinergics	Oxybutynin (Ditropan XL) Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) Benztropine (Cogentin)
CNS Stimulants	Armodafinil (Nuvigil) Atomoxetine (Strattera) Dextroamphetamine (Adderall, Dexedrine) Amphetamine (Adderall) Lisdexamfetamine (Vyvanse) Modafinil (Provigil) Methamphetamine (Desoxyn) Methylphenidate Cocaine
Antipsychotics	Risperidone Olanzapine Quetiapine Haloperidol
Mood Stabilizer	Lithium

Table 1: Psychiatric medications sorted by category.

Heart Medications

Category	Medication
Diuretics	Furosemide (Lasix) Hydrochlorothiazide Acetazolamide
ACE inhibitors	Lisinopril Captopril Enalapril Ramipril
ARBs	Candesartan (Atacand) Irbesartan (Avapro) Losartan (Cozaar) Olmesartan (Benicar) Telmisartan (Micardis) Valsartan (Diovan)
Beta Blockers	Atenolol Metoprolol Propranolol
Calcium Channel Blockers	Amlodipine Felodipine Nifedipine
ARNIs combination drug, including ARB	Sacubitril/Valsartan

Table 2: Heart medications sorted by category.

Other Medications

Category	Medication
Anti-seizure medications	Topiramate Oxcarbazepine Carbamazepine
Antihistamines with anticholinergic properties	Promethazine Doxylamine Diphenhydramine
Analgesics	Opioids Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs, such as ibuprofen, naproxen, aspirin) Acetaminophen
Antibiotics	Sulfonamides Doxycycline
Antiretrovirals	Indinavir
Thyroid replacement	Levothyroxine
Stimulants	Cocaine Amphetamine Methylphenidate
Commonly Abused Substances	Cocaine Methamphetamine
Hallucinogens	MDMA and alternatives
Alcohol	
Insulin	

Table 3: Other medications sorted by category.

Sources

- **CDC:** cdc.gov/heat-health/hcp/heat-and-medications-guidance-for-clinicians.html
- **NOAA:** weather.gov/wrn/240105-extreme-weather-cvs-health
- **SAMHSA:** store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/pep23-01-01-001.pdf
- **ADHS:** azdhs.gov/heat
- **Pima County Health Department:** pima.gov/2042/Beat-the-Heat



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