

Frequent Medications with Values & Vital Signs

Prepared by E. Ross, RN, BSN

1. Betablockers– Pulse(hold <50) “Beta B 50”, Blood pressure (hold if BP <100)
2. Calcium Channel Blockers– BP
3. Potassium – K⁺ level
4. Lovenox/Heparin– Subcutaneous-hold for platelets less than 100,000
5. Ace Inhibitor– BP (pril)
6. Heparin IV– PTT
7. Angiotension Inhibitors – BP
8. Coumadin– PT and INR
9. Nitrates– BP
10. Lanoxin/Digoxin– Apical pulse (hold<60) Dig level (hold is >2.0)
11. Any drugs that cause toxicity– for example Dilantin, Theophylline, digoxin, Phenobarbital, Tegretal. Clue: Drugs that mention in drug book toxicity/overdose may have levels ordered.
12. Thiazide like diuretics and Loop of Henle diuretics– lower K⁺ - Check levels and BP
13. Potassium sparing diuretics– keep K⁺-check levels and BP

Hold any BP medication for systolic BP<100. Check for physician ordered parameters. The physician needs to be notified when the drug is held unless there are ordered parameters.