



# COMMON ANTIBIOTIC CLASSES AND ADVERSE REACTIONS



## Glycopeptides

**Common drugs:** vancomycin, telavancin  
**Notable adverse reactions:** ototoxicity, nephrotoxicity, thrombocytopenia, rash, **vancomycin flushing syndrome (also known as red man syndrome)**

## Beta Lactams

**Common drugs:** penicillin, ceftriaxone, amoxicillin-clavulanate  
**Notable adverse reactions:** rash, seizures, nephrotoxicity, thrombocytopenia, anemia, neutropenia, **anaphylaxis**

## Macrolides

**Common drugs:** erythromycin, azithromycin, clarithromycin  
**Notable adverse reactions:** **QT prolongation**, hepatotoxicity, ototoxicity

## Folate Synthesis Inhibitors

**Common drugs:** trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole  
**Notable adverse reactions:** rash, hyperkalemia, thrombocytopenia, Nephrotoxicity, phototoxicity, **Stevens-Johnson syndrome**, hepatotoxicity

## Tetracyclines

**Common drugs:** doxycycline, minocycline  
**Notable adverse reactions:** **teeth and bone changes**, hepatotoxicity, photosensitivity, Clostridium difficile-associated diarrhea (CDAD)

## Nitroimidazoles

**Common drugs:** metronidazole  
**Notable adverse reactions:** **metallic taste**, hepatotoxicity, peripheral neuropathy, tremors, rash

## Quinolones

**Common drugs:** ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin, moxifloxacin  
**Notable adverse reactions:** QT prolongation, **tendon rupture**, photosensitivity

## Aminoglycosides

**Common drugs:** gentamicin, tobramycin, neomycin  
**Notable adverse reactions:** **nephrotoxicity**, ototoxicity, neuromuscular blockade exacerbation



### EXAM HINT

**Colored reactions** in the table above are common reactions to know for the NCLEX®