



Pharmacy Services

## Grapefruit Juice and Drug Interactions

### What You Need to Know

Many medications interact with grapefruit juice. The grapefruit juice may cause the medication to be more active in your body and produce more side effects. We no longer serve grapefruit juice in the hospital because of this possible problem.

Here are answers to questions you may have about grapefruit juice and drug interactions.

### How much grapefruit juice does it take to cause a drug interaction problem?

One cup (8 ounces) of grapefruit juice a day or 1/2 grapefruit

### How long does the interaction last?

Three days or longer

### Does apple or orange juice cause the same interaction?

No, only grapefruit juice causes the interaction.

### Why does the grapefruit juice cause the interaction?

Flavonoids (a naturally occurring plant pigment) in the grapefruit juice are thought to produce the effect.

### Do I need to worry about medications that are not on the list that follows?

Many medications have not been studied with grapefruit juice. That's why it's always a good idea to tell your doctor about any drugs (new or old) or herbs you are taking.

### What are some common medications that interact with grapefruit juice? (Note: this list is not all-inclusive.)

1. Alprazolam (Xanax)
2. Atorvastatin (Lipitor)
3. Amlodopine (Norvasc)
4. Caffeine
5. Carbamazepine (Tegretol)
6. Cisapride (Propulsid)
7. Clomipramine (Anafranil)
8. Cyclosporine (Neoral, Sandimmune)
9. Diazepam (Valium)
10. Felodipine (Plendil)
11. Imipramine (Tofranil)
12. Lovastatin (Mevacor)
13. Midazolam (Versed)
14. Nicardipine (Cardene)
15. Nifedipine (Procardia XL, Adalat CC)
16. Nimodipine (Nimotop)
17. Nisoldipine (Sular)
18. Nitrendipine (Baypress)
19. Propafenone (Rythmol)
20. Saquinavir (Invirase, Fortovase)
21. Simvastatin (Zocor)
22. Tacrolimus (Prograf)
23. Theophylline (TheoDur, Slo-bid, others)
24. Triazolam (Halcion)
25. Verapamil (Calan, Isoptin, Covera-HS, Verelan)
26. Warfarin (Coumadin)

For more information, please contact Pharmacy Services at (864) 455-8815.

701 Grove Road • Greenville, SC 29605  
(864) 455-8815 • ghs.org