

CENTENE PHARMACY AND THERAPEUTICS  
THERAPEUTIC CLASS MATRIX  
GPI Code 35: Antiarrhythmic Agents  
1Q18 January - February

Review Time Frame: November 2016 – October 2017

**Background:**

There are four classes of antiarrhythmic agents:

- Class 1 drugs act by modulating or blocking sodium channels, thereby inhibiting phase 0 depolarization:
  - Class 1a (e.g., quinidine, disopyramide) – depress phase 0 (sodium-dependent) depolarization, slowing conduction;
  - Class 1b (e.g., mexiletine) – less prominent sodium channel blocking activity at rest, but effectively block the sodium channel in depolarized tissues;
  - Class 1c (e.g., flecainide and propafenone) – block open sodium channels and slow conduction;
- Class 2 drugs act by inhibiting sympathetic activity, primarily by causing beta blockade;
- Class 3 drugs (e.g., amiodarone, dronedarone) block potassium channels, thereby prolonging repolarization, the action potential duration and the refractory period;
- Class 4 drugs are calcium channel blockers.

This class review addresses class 1 and class 3 antiarrhythmic drugs. Class 2 and class 4 antiarrhythmic drugs are reviewed separately.

**New Drugs:**

Date of Approval	Drug Name	FDA-Approved Indication(s)	Approval Type	Commercial Availability
05/12/17 (Tentative approval)	Dronedarone (Multaq) 400 mg tablet	Reduction in the risk of hospitalization for atrial fibrillation in patients in sinus rhythm with a history of paroxysmal or persistent atrial fibrillation.	<input type="checkbox"/> New entity <input type="checkbox"/> New formulation <input type="checkbox"/> New combination <input type="checkbox"/> New indication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First time generic <input type="checkbox"/> New brand (existing agent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Discontinued Drugs:**

None identified.

**FDA Safety Warnings:**

None identified.

**REVIEW RECOMMENDATION**

There is no existing clinical guidance for this drug class.

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**References:**

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3. Page RL, Joglar JA, Caldwell MA, et al. ACC/AHA/HRS guideline for the management of adult patients with supraventricular tachycardia. A report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines and the Heart Rhythm Society. *Heart Rhythm*. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2016 Apr 5;67(13):e27-e115. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2015.08.856. Epub 2015 Sep 24.
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