THE STEWARDSHIP SCOOP

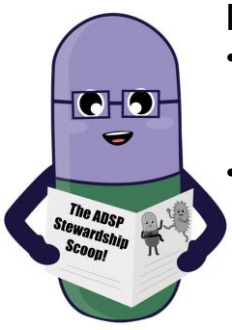
The Antimicrobial and Diagnostic Stewardship Program (ADSP) team is here to bring you the latest

STEWARDSHIP PEARL:

September 2026

An alert has fired, should I panic? Common antimicrobial drug interactions

Antimicrobial	Common interactions		Considerations
Linezolid	Serotonin agents (e.g., sertraline, fentanyl)	✅	Most often ok, highest risk with multiple (2+) other serotonin agents and highest-risk meds [methadone, (es)citalopram] see PMID: 32901348
Quinolones: Ciprofloxacin / Levofloxacin	QTc Prolonging Agents (amiodarone, others)	⚠️	Most often ok. Caution in patients with underlying cardiac arrythmia, other meds with highest risk of QTc prolongation (such as amiodarone or dofetilide), AND baseline QTc >500. Monitor closely if only option or **avoid if safe and effective alternatives available.**
Azoles (depends on the azole: CYP3A4, 2C9, 2C19, or PGP, QTc prolonging agents)	Calcineurin inhibitors, anticoagulation, antidepressants	⚠️	These are often ok, caution for interacting medication dose adjustments when starting OR stopping azole. For QTc specifics, see above quinolone comments. See the ADSP Antifungal TDM Guidance for more details
Rifampin (CYP3A4 & PGP **INDUCER**)	Anticoagulation, calcineurin inhibitors, chemotherapy	❌	Do not use with warfarin or anti-Xa agents. Some indications (prosthetic joint infection synergy & some TB or NTM regimens can consider substitute with rifabutin but caution as rifabutin often has similar interactions, ID consult should approve switch as well)
Carbapenems	Valproic acid/divalproex	❌	See 3.2025 scoop at adsp.nm.org/clinician-education



Respiratory Season Reminders:

- No major changes to NM products for flu vaccines or COVID vaccines (where available)
- Review and recommend adsp.nm.org/respiratory-infections
  - This will be updated throughout the fall and winter as needed