

APPENDIX 1: MEDICATIONS KNOWN TO CAUSE ASTHMA SYMPTOMS

Note: this list is an indication only.

- Beta-blockers
 - Cholinergic agents
 - Cholinesterase inhibitors
- } *All may lead to bronchoconstriction*
- Beta-blockers applied as eye-drops may also cause problems
 - Aspirin and NSAIDs – usually characterised by flushing and rhinorrhoea. May produce a life threatening asthma attack
 - Carbamazepine
 - Some parenteral drugs (such as penicillin, iron dextran complex, hydrocortisone, ipratropium bromide, aminophylline, N-acetyl cysteine)
 - Tartrazine (yellow food dye)
 - Preservatives (such as bisulphates, metabisulphates and benzalkonium chloride)
 - Echinacea (frequently recommended for colds, flu and respiratory infections, but triggers asthma in some people)
 - Royal Jelly (has caused fatal exacerbations in some people).

Source: Asthma Management Handbook 2002 [3].