Guide for Drug Cards
A card should be made for each drug you administer to your patients. You may use a 3 X 5 or 5 X 8 card. It helps you remember if you write the information by hand.

Drug Name (Brands Capitalized) ie Lasix
generic name(lower case) ie furosemide.

Classification: Loop diuretic (remember that drugs can be classified by Therapeutic and Pharmacological classifications. Many times the Pharmacological classifications tells you how the drug works!)

Action: Blocks reabsorption of sodium and chloride in the the loop of Henle which prevents the passive reabsorption of water= diuresis

Uses: CHF, fluid volume overload, pulmonary edema, HTN

Nursing Implications: I/O, Monitor K+ level, check skin turgor, monitor for leg cramps, provide K+ rich foods or supplements, give early in the day to prevent nocturia. If giving IVP, give at prescribed rate (Lasix 10-20mg/minute); ototoxic if given faster.

Effectiveness: Decrease in weight, output> intake, less edema, lung sounds clear.

Side Effects: Hypokalemia, muscle cramps, hyponatremia, dehydration.

Teaching Needs: Take early in the day. Eat foods high in K+

Other drugs in this classification:
(If you know Lasix then you are half way there to knowing the other drugs in this classification. Build on your knowledge!)
Bumex  bumetanide
Demadex  torsemide
Edecrin  ethacrylic acid.