What happens when alcohol is combined with other drugs?

**ALCOHOL-DRUG INTERACTIONS:**

Whenever alcohol is combined with another drug, there is a good chance that the two drugs will interact. The result may be something that would not have occurred had either of the two drugs been used alone.

Possible interactions include:

- changing the effects of medications in treating illness which may, in turn, prohibit or slow healing,
- experience unexpected or undesired effects, or
- experiencing serious health consequences.

**EXAMPLES OF DRUGS WHICH INTERACT WITH ALCOHOL:**

- **Over the counter products** -- NoDoz, aspirin, antihistamines
- **Prescription medications** -- cough preparations with codeine, tranquilizers, seizure medications, antidepressants
- **Street drugs** -- marijuana, cocaine, speed, etc...

If you don't know how or if the drug you are taking will interact with alcohol, and you plan to drink, call someone to find out about the combination. A very good and convenient source for this information is a local pharmacist. Also, see the resources listed below.

**Additional Resources**

- [www.drugs.com](http://www.drugs.com) - excellent overall site for drug information
- [http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/aa27.htm](http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/aa27.htm) excellent summary article on alcohol and drug interactions
- Physician's Desk Reference - in NIU's Library
  Medical Economics Co. Inc., Oradel, NJ
- The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics - in NIU's Library