

Cardiac (Heart) Medicines

A handout about your prescription heart medicines

Read this handout to learn:

- about all the medicines you have been prescribed
- how your hospital pharmacist can help
- 10 rules for taking your heart medicines



Medicines are a common treatment for heart disease.

Your medicine information sheets are attached to this chapter.

These sheets have information about the cardiac medicines your doctor has prescribed for you. Read the medicine information sheets to learn:

- the name of your medicine
- why you need to take it
- how to take it
- side effects that you should watch out for
- when you need to call your doctor

How will my hospital pharmacist help me?

The pharmacist is part of your health care team in the hospital. The pharmacist will make sure that you get the medicines that are right for you.

Before you go home from the hospital, your pharmacist will:

- meet with you to talk about the medicine charts in this booklet
- explain the medicines you will be taking when you go home, including:
 - the reason you are taking each medicine
 - the best times to take your medicines
 - whether you should take your medicines with or without food
- give you more written information about taking your medicines at home
- give you any other information you might need

Show your medicine chart to your family doctor and your community pharmacist. They can explain if there were any changes to your medicines while you were in the hospital.



10 rules to remember about your medicines

1. Follow the instructions for taking your medicine. Take your medicine exactly as your doctor asked you to.
2. Take your medicine the same time every day.
If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If you remember when it is near the time for your next dose, take only 1 dose.
Do not take more than 1 dose at the same time.
3. Keep your medicines in the bottle they came in.
4. Store your medicines in a cool, dry place, away from heat or light.
5. Store your medicine in a safe place away from children and pets.
6. Contact your pharmacy at least 24 hours before you run out of your medicine. If there are no more repeats on your prescription, you or your pharmacist will need to call your doctor.
7. Always tell your doctor, pharmacist and dentist which medicines you are taking.
8. Always tell your doctor and pharmacist if you are taking any non-prescription medicines. This includes vitamins and/or herbal products.
9. Do not share your medicines with other people.
10. Talk to your pharmacist if you have any questions about your medicines.



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