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# COMMON DRUGS FOR HEART PATIENTS



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The following list is intended for informational purposes only. It does not include all medications you may be taking, and it does not cover all possible side effects, drug interactions, or uses of the medication. If you develop symptoms not mentioned or if you have questions, contact your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

Safe usage of your medication is very important. The following are general principles to follow to help your doctor and pharmacist provide the best care for you:

- ♥ Provide a complete medical and medication history, including any natural products, vitamins, and prescribed and over-the-counter medications.
- ♥ Check with your pharmacist or physician if you want to start taking a new natural product, vitamin, or over-the-counter medication.
- ♥ Inform them about any reactions you may have had to any medications in the past.
- ♥ When starting a new medication, always ask for information on how to take it, including whether there are any foods that you should avoid while taking this new medication.
- ♥ Ask if drinking alcohol is a problem while taking your new medication. Ask your pharmacist for written instructions.

The following are safety precautions you should follow:

- ♥ Remember what each of your medications is used for and how to take it.
- ♥ When receiving a refill on your medication, make sure that the pills are the same as the ones you have taken in the past. Do not hesitate to ask your pharmacist if they seem different in shape, size, or color.
- ♥ Your medications are for your usage only. Do not share them with anyone and never take someone else's.
- ♥ Take a missed dose as soon as possible unless it is close to your next dosage time. Take the next scheduled dose only. Do not double your dose.
- ♥ Continue to take the medication even when you feel better.
- ♥ Keep all your medications in a dry area in your home, away from direct light.
- ♥ Do not mix your medications together in the same container.
- ♥ Always keep your medications out of the reach of children.
- ♥ Store your medications in a consistent and secure spot so you can easily remember to take them.

## COMMON DRUGS FOR HEART PATIENTS

Amiodarone (Cordarone)		
Generic	Brand	Manufacturer
Amiodarone	Cordarone	Wyeth-Ayerst

**Profile:**

This medicine is taken orally and used to treat an irregular heartbeat.

**Conditions:**

- ♥ Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take or use.
- ♥ Tell your doctor about all medical problems, especially thyroid conditions.
- ♥ Take a missed dose as soon as you remember, but do not double the dose.
- ♥ Continue to take the medication even when you feel better.
- ♥ Be careful in the sunlight when you take this medicine. If you must be in sunlight, cover up, wear a hat, or wear sunscreen.
- ♥ Do not stop taking this medicine without asking your doctor.

**Common Side Effects:**

Constipation. Taste may be bitter or metallic. Decreased appetite.

**Call the Doctor If...**

- ♥ You develop painful breathing, coughing, or shortness of breath.
- ♥ You experience numbness or tingling in the fingers or toes, or shaking of the hands.
- ♥ You have trouble walking or unusual body movements you cannot control.
- ♥ You develop a blue-gray coloring of the skin on the upper body.

Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE) Inhibitors		
Generic	Brand	Manufacturer
Benazepril	Lotensin	Novartis
Captopril	Capoten	Bristol-Myers Squibb
Enalapril	Vasotec	Merck
Fosinopril	Monopril	Bristol-Myers Squibb
Lisinopril	Prinivil Zestril	Merck Astra-Zeneca
Moexipril	Univasc	Schwarz
Perindopril	Aceon	Solvay
Quinapril	Accupril	Parke-Davis/ Warner-Lambert
Ramipril	Altace	Monarch/Avartis
Trandolapril	Mavik	Knoll

**Profile:**

These medicines are taken orally and used to help the heart work better. They are also used to treat high blood pressure.

**Conditions:**

- ♥ Tell your doctor if you are taking a salt substitute.
- ♥ Tell your doctor if you are taking potassium.
- ♥ Tell your doctor if you have had a problem with any other ACE inhibitor, such as swelling or sudden trouble breathing.
- ♥ Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take or use.
- ♥ Do not stop taking this medicine without talking to your doctor.
- ♥ Do not take a missed dose if it is almost time to take your next dose.

**Common Side Effects:**

Dizziness or lightheadedness. A dry, continuing cough and no other signs of a cold. Nausea, headache.

**Call the Doctor If...**

- ♥ You have fainting spells; skin rash; hoarseness; a sudden swelling of the face, mouth, hands, or feet; or sudden trouble swallowing or breathing.

Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers (ARBs)		
Generic	Brand	Manufacturer
Candesartan	Atacand	Astra-Zeneca
Irbesartan	Avapro	Bristol-Myers Squibb
Losartan	Cozaar	Merck
Valsartan	Diovan	Novartis

**Profile:**

This medication is taken orally and is used to help improve heart function. It is also used to treat high blood pressure.

**Conditions:**

- ♥ Do not stop taking this medication without talking to your doctor.
- ♥ Take a missed dose as soon as possible unless it is close to your next dosage time. Take the next scheduled dose only. Do not double your dose.
- ♥ Continue to take this medication even when you feel better.
- ♥ Tell your doctor if you have had problems such as swelling or sudden trouble breathing with any ARBs or any ACE Inhibitors.
- ♥ Use caution if you drive a car or operate heavy machinery as this medication may cause you to be dizzy.

**Common Side Effects:**

♥ Dizziness or lightheadedness, diarrhea, continuing dry cough (and no other signs of a cold), headache.

**Call the Doctor If...**

- ♥ You have fainting spells or skin rash.
- ♥ You have hoarseness or a sudden swelling of the face, mouth, lips, hands, or feet, or sudden trouble swallowing and breathing.

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### Aspirin

**Profile:**

Aspirin is taken orally and used to help thin the blood. It may help prevent heart attack. It is also used for fever, aches, or pain.

**Conditions:**

- ♥ Tell your doctor if you are taking blood thinners.
- ♥ Tell your doctor if you are taking other pain or arthritis medicines.
- ♥ Take a missed dose as soon as you remember, but do not take a missed dose if it is almost time for the next aspirin.

**Common Side Effects:**

Mild stomach upset or heartburn.

**Call the Doctor If...**

- ♥ You have unusual bleeding or bruises.
- ♥ You have skin rash or hives.
- ♥ You have dark, tarry-looking stool.

### Beta Blockers

Generic	Brand	Manufacturer
Atenolol	Tenormin	Astra-Zeneca
Carvedilol	Coreg	SmithKline Beecham
Labetalol	Trandate/ Normadyne	Glaxo Key/Schering
Metoprolol	Lopressor	Novartis
Nadolol	Corgard	Bristol-Myers Squibb
Pindolol	Visken	Novartis
Propranolol	Inderal	Wyeth-Ayerst

**Profile:**

These medicines are oral and are used to help the heart work better. They can also slow the heartbeat, treat high blood pressure, and prevent heart attack or chest pain.

**Conditions:**

- ♥ Tell your doctor about all medicine you are taking.
- ♥ Tell your doctor if you have sugar diabetes or suffer from depression.
- ♥ Take a missed dose as soon as possible unless it is close to your next dose.
- ♥ Do not stop taking this medicine without first asking your doctor.

**Common Side Effects:**

Dizziness or lightheadedness when getting up from lying or sitting; decreased sexual ability.

**Call the Doctor If...**

- ♥ You experience wheezing or difficulty breathing.
- ♥ There is an unusually slow heartbeat.
- ♥ You experience confusion or vivid dreams.
- ♥ You faint.

### Calcium Channel Blockers (CCBs)

Generic	Brand	Manufacturer
Amlodipine	Norvasc	Pfizer
Diltiazem	Cardizem, Cardizem SR, or Cardizem CD	Aventis
Felodipine	Plendil	Astra-Zeneca
Isradipine	Dynacirc or Dynacirc CR	Novartis
Nifedipine	Adalat Adalat-CC Procardia Procardia XL	Bayer Bayer Pfizer Pfizer
Nisoldipine	Sular	Astra-Zeneca
Verapamil	Calan Calan SR Covera-HS Isoptin Isoptin SR Verelan	Searle Searle Searle Knoll Labs Knoll Labs Schwarz/Lederle

**Profile:**

These medicines are taken orally. Some calcium channel blockers (CCBs) are used to control the heart-beat; others are used to treat angina. CCBs can also be used to treat high blood pressure.

**Conditions:**

- ♥ Tell your doctor if you have any other heart or blood vessel problems, or kidney problems.
- ♥ Tell your doctor about all the medicine you take.
- ♥ Tell your doctor if you have had a bad reaction to this medicine before.
- ♥ Take a missed dose as soon as you remember, but do not take a missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose.
- ♥ Do not stop taking this medicine without asking your doctor.
- ♥ Do not crush or chew any products having parts to their names like CD, SR, XL, or CC. Swallow these whole.

**Common Side Effects:**

Mild headache (this often goes away with time). Mild dizziness, lightheadedness.

**Call the Doctor If...**

- ♥ You experience breathing difficulty or wheezing.
- ♥ You have swelling of the ankles, feet, or lower legs.
- ♥ You have an unusual heartbeat or chest pain.
- ♥ You faint.

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Clopidogrel (Plavix)		
Generic	Brand	Manufacturer
Clopidogrel	Plavix	Bristol-Myers Squibb

**Profile:**

This medication is shown to cut your risk of having a heart attack or stroke. If you have a stent in a blood vessel, it is used to keep the stent from clotting.

**Conditions:**

- ♥ Take the medicine even if you are beginning to feel better. Even though you may not feel different once you start Plavix, it is working.
- ♥ Get your blood checked occasionally if recommended by your doctor.
- ♥ Take a missed dose as soon as you remember, but do not take a missed dose if it is almost time for your next one and do not stop taking Plavix unless told to by your doctor.
- ♥ Tell your doctor and dentist you are taking Plavix before any surgery is scheduled or before any new drug is taken.

**Common Side Effects:**

Stomach pain or upset, diarrhea. Rash.

**Call the Doctor If...**

- ♥ You have unusual bleeding that does not stop.
- ♥ You have stomach pain or upset or diarrhea you cannot tolerate.

Digoxin (Lanoxin)		
Generic	Brand	Manufacturer
Digoxin	Lanoxin	Glaxo

**Profile:**

This is taken orally or administered with a shot. It is used to strengthen and control the heart.

**Conditions:**

- ♥ Tell your doctor if you are taking cholesterol drugs.
- ♥ Tell your doctor if you are taking potassium drugs.
- ♥ Ask your doctor about checking your pulse rate.
- ♥ Do not take a missed dose if it is almost time to take your next dose, and do not double dose.
- ♥ Tell your doctor about all prescription or nonprescription medications you take or use.
- ♥ Do not stop taking this medicine without asking your doctor.

**Common Side Effects:**

Mild nausea, loss of appetite.

**Call the Doctor If...**

- ♥ You have skin rash or hives.
- ♥ You experience an unusual or extreme loss of appetite, nausea, or vomiting.
- ♥ You are unusually tired, weak, drowsy, or confused.
- ♥ You have a slow or irregular heartbeat or blurred vision.
- ♥ You experience an unusual or bad headache or fainting spells.

Diuretic Agents		
Generic	Brand	Manufacturer
Bumetanide	Bumex	Roche
Furosemide	Lasix	Aventis
Hydrochlorothiazide	Hydrodiuril Microzide	Merck Watson
Torsemide	Demadex	Roche

**Profile:**

This medication is administered orally or with a shot. Known as the “water pill,” it decreases the amount of water in the body, causing your kidneys to make more water, and you lose potassium. It can also be used to lower blood pressure.

**Conditions:**

- ♥ Tell your doctor if you have sugar diabetes, gout, or problems holding your urine.
- ♥ Tell your doctor if you had any allergy to any other water pill.
- ♥ Tell your doctor about any medicine you take or use.
- ♥ Take a missed dose as soon as you remember, but do not take a missed dose if it is almost time for the next one and do not stop taking this medication without advice from your doctor.

**Common Side Effects:**

Dizziness, lightheadedness when getting up from lying down or sitting.

**Call the Doctor If...**

- ♥ You have muscle cramps or pain; nausea or vomiting; unusual weakness. These are signs of too much potassium loss.
- ♥ You have skin rash or fainting.

Hydralazine (Apresoline)		
Generic	Brand	Manufacturer
Hydralazine	Apresoline	Novartis

**Profile:**

This medicine is taken orally and used to help the heart work better. It can also be used to lower high blood pressure.

**Conditions:**

- ♥ Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take or use.
- ♥ Tell your doctor about all medical problems, including stroke or kidney problems.
- ♥ Take a missed dose as soon as you remember, but do not take a missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose.
- ♥ Do not stop taking this medicine without talking to your doctor.

**Common Side Effects:**

Decreased appetite. Fast or “jumpy” heartbeat. Dizziness, lightheadedness, or flushing.

## STATE OF THE HEART

### Call the Doctor If...

- ♥ You have a pounding heartbeat, chest pain, or skin rash.
- ♥ You experience unusual swelling of feet or lower legs.
- ♥ You have fainting spells.

Nitroglycerin		
Generic	Brand	Manufacturer
Isosorbide Dinitrate	Isordil	Wyeth-Ayerst
Isosorbide Mononitrate	Imdur	Key/Schering
	Ismo	Wyeth-Ayerst
	Monoket	Schwarz
Nitroglycerin	Minitran	3M
	Nitro-Bid	Aventis/Hoechst

### Profile:

This medication is taken orally. It is used to help the heart by increasing its supply of blood and oxygen. It is also used to prevent angina.

### Conditions:

- ♥ Tell your doctor about any medicine you take or use.
- ♥ Do not break, crush, or chew the tablets.
- ♥ Take a missed dose as soon as you remember, but not if it is almost time to take your next dose.
- ♥ Continue to take this medication even when you feel better.
- ♥ Do not stop taking it without asking your doctor.

### Common Side Effects:

Dizziness or lightheadedness. Headache. Flushing of the face or neck.

### Call the Doctor If...

- ♥ You have severe prolonged headache or pressure in the head.
- ♥ There is extreme dizziness or fainting.
- ♥ You have a weak or fast heartbeat.

Potassium Supplements		
Generic	Brand	Manufacturer
Potassium Supplements	K-Dur	Key
	Slow-K	Novartis
	K-Lyte	Bristol-Myers Squibb

### Profile:

This is used to add potassium to your body. Potassium is important to the heart and muscles. It comes in a pill, liquid, or flat tablet to fizz in water or juice.

### Conditions:

- ♥ Tell your doctor if you take a salt substitute.
- ♥ Tell your doctor if you are on a special diet.
- ♥ Tell your doctor if you are taking a water pill or ACE-inhibitor drug.
- ♥ Take a missed dose as soon as you remember, but do not take the dose if it is almost time for your next one.

- ♥ Do not stop taking this medicine without permission from your doctor.
- ♥ Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take.
- ♥ Do not crush the potassium pill. Do not put the potassium fizz tablet or liquid in water or juice.

### Common Side Effects:

Mild stomach upset or heartburn. Bad taste in the mouth.

### Call the Doctor If...

- ♥ You have severe stomach pain.
- ♥ You have a dark, tarry-looking stool.
- ♥ You experience muscle weakness, unusual heartbeat or pulse, or confusion.

Procainamide		
Generic	Brand	Manufacturer
Procainamide	Procan SR	Parke-Davis/ Warner-Lambert
Procainamide	Procanbid	MonarchProcainamide
	Pronestyl	Bristol-Myers Squibb
Procainamide	Pronestyl-SR	Bristol-Myers Squibb

### Profile:

This medication is taken orally and used to treat irregular heartbeat.

### Conditions:

- ♥ Do not stop taking this medication without talking to your doctor.
- ♥ Take a missed dose as soon as possible unless it is close to your next dosage time. Take the next scheduled dose only. Do not double your dose.
- ♥ Continue to take the medication even when you feel better.
- ♥ Take this medication on an empty stomach.
- ♥ Use caution if you drive a car or operate heavy machinery as this medication may cause you to be drowsy.

### Common Side Effects:

Upset stomach, diarrhea, drowsiness, arthritis.

### Call the Doctor If...

- ♥ You have trouble breathing.
- ♥ You develop dizzy spells or loss of consciousness.
- ♥ You develop palpitations.
- ♥ You have joint pain or swelling.

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Statins		
Generic	Brand	Manufacturer
Atorvastatin	Lipitor	Parke-Davis/Pfizer (Warner-Lambert)
Cerivastatin	Baycol	Bayer
Fluvastatin	Lescol	Novartis
Lovastatin	Mevacor	Merck
Pravastatin	Pravachol	Bristol-Myers Squibb
Simvastatin	Zocor	Merck

### Profile:

This medication is taken orally and used to help decrease the “bad” cholesterol and increase the “good” cholesterol.

### Conditions:

- ♥ Do not stop taking this medication without talking to your doctor.
- ♥ Take a missed dose as soon as possible unless it is close to your next dosage time. Take the next scheduled dose only. Do not double your dose.
- ♥ Continue to take the medication even when you feel better.
- ♥ This medication is more effective when used in combination with a low cholesterol, low fat diet.
- ♥ Take this medication in the evening or at bedtime.
- ♥ Take a missed dose as soon as possible unless it is close to your next dosage time. Take the next scheduled dose only. Do not double your dose.

### Common Side Effects:

Headache, upset stomach, diarrhea, or constipation.

### Call the Doctor If...

- ♥ You develop diffused muscular aches.
- ♥ You develop yellowing skin or eyes.
- ♥ You develop stomach or abdominal pain with nausea or vomiting.
- ♥ You develop skin rash.

Ticlopidine (Ticlid)		
Generic	Brand	Manufacturer
Ticlopidine	TICLID	Roche

### Profile:

TICLID has been shown to cut the risk of having a stroke or heart attack. If you have a stent in a blood vessel, it is used to keep the stent from clotting.

### Conditions:

- ♥ Take the medicine even if you begin to feel better.
- ♥ Have your blood monitored regularly once you start TICLID. You will need to have blood drawn every two weeks for the first three months. Do not skip any of these appointments.
- ♥ Take a missed dose as soon as you remember, but do not take a missed dose if it is almost time for the next dose.

- ♥ Do not stop taking TICLID unless told to do so by your doctor. If you are told to stop taking TICLID, you will still have to have your blood drawn. This will only be for two weeks after you stop.

### Common Side Effects:

Stomach pain or upset, diarrhea.

### Call the Doctor If...

- ♥ You develop a rash.
- ♥ You have stomach pain or upset, or diarrhea you cannot stand.
- ♥ You have signs of infection such as fever, chills, or sore throat.

## Warfarin (Coumadin)

### Profile:

Warfarin is an oral anticoagulant that prevents harmful blood clots from forming or getting larger. It is sometimes called a blood thinner, although it does not actually thin the blood.

### Conditions:

- ♥ Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan on becoming pregnant.
- ♥ Keep all doctor appointments, especially involving blood work.
- ♥ Avoid activities that have a risk of injury since warfarin affects the body’s ability to stop bleeding.
- ♥ Alert your doctor to missed doses.
- ♥ Take a missed dose as soon as possible, but do not double the dose to make up for the missed dose.
- ♥ Let your doctor know about all the medication you are taking, including nonprescription.
- ♥ Tell your dentist and any other doctors you are taking warfarin.

### Common Side Effects:

Minor bleeding from the gums, occasional nose bleeds, easy bruising.

### Call the Doctor If...

- ♥ There is unexplained or excessive bruising, nose-bleeds, or menstrual bleeding.
- ♥ There is excessive bleeding or oozing from gums, cuts, or wounds.
- ♥ You experience tar-colored stools or blood in the urine.
- ♥ There is unexplained stomach pain, abdominal swelling, back pain, or backaches.
- ♥ You experience excessive fatigue, chills, fever, sore throat, unexplained mouth sores.
- ♥ There is dizziness, severe headache, unexplained joint pain, stiffness, or swelling.

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