

## ACE inhibitors

This handout provides information about ACE inhibitor drugs. These drugs are often prescribed if you have high blood pressure, heart disease, heart failure, or had a heart attack. They are also prescribed for some people who have diabetes and/or kidney problems. Other topics covered include how to take this drug, tips for taking it, side effects, and getting your blood checked.

### ACE inhibitors for your heart

- ACE inhibitors can lower the chance that you will have a heart attack
- If you have heart disease, heart failure, or had a heart attack, your doctor may prescribe ACE inhibitors
- If you have high blood pressure, your doctor may prescribe ACE inhibitors

### ACE inhibitors for diabetes or your kidneys

- ACE inhibitors can protect your kidneys
- If you have diabetes or kidney disease, your doctor may prescribe ACE inhibitors

### How to take it

- Ask your doctor how often to take your ACE inhibitor
- Some are taken once a day, and others may be taken 2 or 3 times a day

### Tips for taking

- You may need to drink more fluids (ask your doctor)
- Do not take non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen or naproxen unless your doctor says it is OK
- You may need to take a water pill or diuretic, or adjust the amount of diuretic you already take

### Side effects

- Dry cough
- Dizzy or lightheaded when you stand up
- Skin rashes
- High level of potassium in your blood, which can hurt your heart
- Call your doctor if you are concerned about a side effect

### Get your blood checked

- Kidney tests and potassium levels
- After a change in prescription
- At your regular check ups

**Circle the drug you take**

- Benazepril (Lotensin)
- Captopril (Capoten)
- Enalapril (Vasotec)
- Fosinopril (Monopril)
- Lisinopril (Prinivil or Zestril)
- Moexipril (Univasc)
- Perindopril (Aceon)
- Quinapril (Accupril)
- Ramipril (Altace)
- Trandolapril (Mavik)

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The content in this letter is intended as general information and may not apply to you or your condition. Talk to your doctor about how to best use this information and how to take care of your medical condition. This information is not intended to provide or replace professional medical advice or services.

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