

# Stroke medications

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## What medications help?

Medications are used for many reasons. You will have your own medication plan to follow based on your condition. You may need medication to:

- help prevent blood clots
- help prevent another stroke
- lower your blood pressure
- lower cholesterol
- help your heart beat more slowly and strongly

It is important that you take your medications as prescribed. Never take anyone else's medications. Do not share your medications with other people.

## What are the common medications?

The chart on the next few pages lists the common medications used to prevent stroke and treat heart disease. Medication names are listed by their generic name first and then some of the common trade names in brackets.

As many companies can make the same medication, not all names are listed. New medications often come on the market that may not be listed.

If you have any questions, please ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

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<b>Generic and Trade Names</b> (generic names are listed 1 <sup>st</sup> with no capital letters)	<b>What medication does</b>
<b>Type of medication</b> <b>Angiotensin-Converting Enzymes (ACE) Inhibitors:</b> benazepril (Lotensin®) captopril (Capoten®, Apo-Capto®) cilazapril (Inhibace®) enalapril (Vasotec®) fosinopril (Monopril®) lisinopril (Prinivil®, Zestril®) quinapril (Accupril®) perindopril (Coversyl®) ramipril (Altace®) trandolapril (Mavik®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lowers blood pressure</li> <li>• used to treat heart failure</li> <li>• reduces risk of heart attack and stroke</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">           Do not take both an ACE and an ARB medication together.         </div>
<b>Angiotensin Receptor Blockers (ARB)</b> candesartan (Atacand®) eprosarten (Teveten®) irbesartan (Avapro®) losartan (Cozaar®) telmisarten (Micardis®) valsartan (Diovan®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lowers blood pressure</li> <li>• may be used instead of ACE Inhibitor if that medication causes you to cough</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">           Do not take both an ACE and an ARB medication together.         </div>
<b>Beta Blockers</b> acebutolol (Sectral® , Monitran®) atenolol (Tenormin®) bisoprolol (Monocur®) carvedilol (Coreg®) metoprolol (Lopressor®) pindolol (Visken®) propranolol (Inderal®) timolol (Blocadren®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lowers heart rate and blood pressure</li> <li>• helps to treat and prevent angina</li> <li>• helps to prevent a heart attack in patients who have had one</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">           Do not take these medications if you have asthma.         </div>
<b>Calcium Channel Blockers</b> <b>Heart rate controlling:</b> diltiazem (Cardizem®SR, Cardizem®CD, Tiazac®) verapamil (Isoptin®, Isoptin SR®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• helps prevent and treat angina</li> <li>• used to lower heart rate and/or blood pressure</li> </ul>

<b>Generic and Trade Names</b> (generic names are listed 1 <sup>st</sup> with no capital letters)	<b>What medication does</b>
<b>Type of medication</b> <b>Non-heart rate controlling:</b> amlodipine (Norvasc®) felodipine (Plendil®, Renedil®) nifedipine (Adalat PA, Adalat XL®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• helps prevent and treat angina</li> <li>• lowers blood pressure</li> </ul>
<b>Diuretics</b> furosemide (Lasix®) hydrochlorothiazide (Apo Hydro®/Novo-Hydrazide®) indapamide (Lozide®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lowers high blood pressure</li> <li>• removes excess fluids from the body to reduce swelling</li> </ul>
<b>Lipid Lowering Agents - Statins:</b> atorvastatin (Lipitor®) fluvastatin (Lescol®) lovastatin (Mevacor®) pravastatin (Pravachol®) rosuvastatin (Crestor®) simvastatin (Zocor®) <b>Lipid Lowering Agents - Fibrates:</b> bezafibrate (Bezalip®) fenofibrate (Lipidil Micro®) gemfibrozil (Lopid®) <b>Lipid Lowering Agents - Others:</b> ezetimibe (Ezetrol®) nicotinic acid (Niacin)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lowers your total cholesterol and your bad (LDL) cholesterol</li> <li>• may lower triglycerides</li> <li>• may increase your good (HDL) cholesterol</li> <li>• helps prevent another stroke, even when your blood cholesterol is normal</li> </ul>
<b>Platelet Inhibitors and Anticoagulant Medications</b> acetylsalicylic acid, ASA (Aspirin®, Entrophen®, Novasen®) acetylsalicylic acid, ASA+ dipyridamole (Aggrenox®) clopidogrel (Plavix®) ticlopidine (Ticlid®) warfarin (Coumadin®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• used to prevent blood clots or platelets from sticking together</li> <li>• helps to reduce the chance of stroke</li> <li>• you may be on more than one of these medications</li> </ul>

## What are the side effects of my medications?

Each medication has its own side effects. You can learn more about the side effects of any medication you take by reading the medication information handouts provided by your hospital or pharmacist. These handouts tell you about the side effects you may notice and when to contact your doctor.

In general, contact your doctor or go to the nearest hospital if you have:

- trouble breathing
- fainting
- dizziness
- severe stomach pain
- increased swelling in both ankles, legs, feet or hands
- fast or irregular heart beats
- bleeding – nosebleeds, black or bloody stools, red urine
- severe skin rash
- severe tiredness or weakness

Call your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you have any questions about your medication.

**Carry an up-to-date list of your medications  
and dosages with you all the time.**

## What do I need to know about my medications before I leave the hospital?

You, your family members and partner need to know:

- the correct name and dose of your medications
- why you are on these medications
- how to take your medications correctly
- where to keep your medications
- the possible side effects of your medications
- how to refill your prescription

Your nurse, doctor and pharmacist will help you learn this information about your medications while you are at the hospital. Your community pharmacist will review this information with you each time you refill your prescription as well.