

ACE Inhibitors

Information for Patients

ACE Inhibitors is the name given to a group of medicines. The name of your ACE inhibitor is

.....

Why has my doctor given me an ACE inhibitor?

ACE inhibitors are used to treat high blood pressure and heart failure. They can be used after a heart attack and help to relieve breathlessness and ankle swelling. They can reduce the risk of further heart disease.

Check with your doctor if you are still not sure why you need an ACE inhibitor.

How do they work?

These drugs stop a substance called ACE (Angiotensin Converting Enzyme) working. They make the blood vessels relax, reducing blood pressure and the work the heart has to do.

How should I take my ACE inhibitor?

Always follow the instructions on the label. The dose you need to take depends on which drug you are taking and your symptoms. Sometimes a small dose is given initially (usually at night) and then gradually increased. Always follow the instructions on the label. Do not stop taking this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

Take it as soon as you remember. If it is nearly time for the next dose, do not take the one you missed. Take the next dose at the usual time. Do not double up the next dose.

CTPALS108 Version 4

What are the side effects of ACE inhibitors?

All drugs have side effects but most people will not experience them. The following can occur in some people:

- Loss of taste.
- Dry cough.
- Dizziness or headaches.
- Jaundice.

If you notice any of these problems, discuss them with your doctor. If you experience any of the following effects, stop taking this medicine and tell your doctor immediately (do not stop unless for these reasons).

These side effects are rare:

- Skin rashes.
- Swelling of the face or mouth.
- Fever or sore throat.

Can I take other medicines while taking ACE inhibitors?

Yes, but some other medicines may affect how ACE inhibitors work. It is important that you check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking any other medicines including ones that you buy over the counter. Reduce salt in cooking and at the table. Avoid salt substitutes and cystitis preparations unless discussed with your doctor or pharmacist first.

This leaflet is not intended as a substitute for any advice that your doctor, nurse or pharmacist may give you.

More detailed information can be obtained from the manufacturer's information leaflet.

Pharmaceutical Service	August 2016
Review date	August 2020

If you require a copy of this leaflet in any other language or format please contact us quoting the leaflet code and the language or format you require.