

# After a heart attack: *How your medicines can help*



## Your medicines can help protect your heart

After a heart attack, your doctor will probably prescribe medicines for you to take. They are a key part of your treatment. This guide can help you learn more about heart medicines. It is **not** meant to replace the advice of your doctor. If you have questions or concerns about your medicines, always talk with your doctor about them.

### Facts about heart medicines

#### Each works in a different way

The types of medicines you get depend on what caused your heart attack and on your health. Your doctor may prescribe a medicine to:

- Stop chest pain
- Control blood pressure or cholesterol
- Make it easier for the heart to beat
- Control heartbeats that skip or race
- Thin your blood and prevent clotting
- Remove extra fluid

Some medicines can also help keep you from having another heart attack and help you live longer.

## How your medicines may make you feel

Some medicines for a heart attack may affect the way you feel. At each doctor visit, be sure to let your doctor know how each medicine makes you feel. You and your doctor can decide what medicines are best for you and how to manage any side effects.

Keep taking your medicines even when you are feeling better. If you need to stop a medicine, always talk with your doctor first. Some medicines should not be stopped all at once. Your doctor can work with you to reduce your dose slowly.

## Talk with your doctor about your medicine

Ask these questions so you know how to take your medicine the right way.

1. What is the name of the medicine?
2. How will this medicine help me?
3. At what time of day should I take this medicine?
4. Should I take it with food or without?
5. What should I do if I miss a dose?
6. Are there any other medicines that I should not take with this medicine?

This material was developed by GlaxoSmithKline.



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