

# Your heart failure medicines: *What you need to know*



## Your heart failure medicines help your heart in many ways

Medicines are a very important part of your heart failure treatment. This guide can help you learn more. It is *not* meant to replace the advice of your doctor. If you have questions or concerns about your medicines or how they make you feel, always talk with your doctor about them.

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

### Facts about heart failure medicines

#### Each one works in a different way

You may take one or more medicines every day. Your doctor may prescribe medicine to:

- Help your heart work better
- Help you breathe more easily
- Help you get rid of extra fluid
- Help you feel better
- Help you stay out of the hospital
- Help you live longer

#### How the medicines may make you feel

Some medicines for heart failure 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.

## 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?