

PERITONEAL DIALYSIS MEDICATION

Medications, together with dialysis, diet and fluid control, can help keep you healthy when you have kidney failure.

Medications are prescribed by your kidney doctor according to your needs. Your pharmacist and nurse will teach you how to take your medication properly.

It is very important to take your medication as prescribed and to tell your kidney care team as soon as possible if you think you are having any unexpected side effects. If you have been given a prescription by a doctor outside of your healthcare team, it is important to tell them before taking this medication. Also, ask your team before taking any over-the-counter (non-prescription) and alternative medication (such as herbal medication). Always carry a complete and current medication list with you. The medication list should have the name of the medication, dose (strength) and how often the medication is taken.

Some medications that many people with kidney failure require include:

Phosphate Binders attach to the phosphate from your food as you eat and prevent phosphate from building up in your body. There are different kinds of phosphate binders such as calcium carbonate (Tums® chewable tablets or Calcium Carbonate tablets), Sevelamer (Renagel®) and lanthanum (Fosrenol®). They must be taken with your meals.

Calcitriol (Rocaltrol®) is an active form of Vitamin D that helps your body use calcium better and helps avoid bone problems.

Laxatives such as Senna (Senakot®), Lactulose, Bisacodyl (Dulcolax®), Golytely can help relieve constipation.

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Red Blood Cell Stimulating Agents such as Eprex® or Aranesp injections treat anemia by helping to make more red blood cells. Treating anemia can give you more energy.

Iron can help make red blood cells. If iron in your body is low, you may need the pill or capsule form (Ferrous Fumarate, Ferrous Gluconate). In some cases, intravenous iron (Venofer, Ferrelecit, Feraheme) may be given in a clinic.

Stool softeners such as docusate (Colace®) can help prevent constipation.

Blood pressure medication lowers blood pressure and help your heart work well. There are many different medications that can help your high blood pressure. Your kidney doctor will find the right medications for you.

Antibiotics may be prescribed to treat infections, such as peritonitis. Sometimes antibiotics need to be added to your dialysate bag. You will be taught how to do this properly by your nurse.

Blood sugar lowering medication (pills) are used by some people with diabetes to reduce their blood sugar level to prevent harmful effects on the body. There are many different types and it is very important to take what is prescribed for you.

Insulin is sometimes used by some people who have diabetes to lower their blood sugar level. The dose of insulin must be adjusted individually when you are on peritoneal dialysis (PD) to account for the sugar content of the PD solution.

Cholesterol medication lowers your blood cholesterol level which decreases your risk for heart attacks and strokes.

Vitamin supplements (Replavite®) are used to replace vitamins B, C and folic acid that is lost during dialysis.

Heparin is a medication that prevents fibrin from forming. Fibrin can form in your effluent and looks like white stringy fibres. Fibrin can block the catheter and the flow of dialysate. Your nurse will teach you when and how to add Heparin into your dialysate.

About the Chronic Kidney Disease Vascular Access Fact Sheets:

This Fact Sheet was created by the Ontario Renal Network ("ORN"), a work unit within Cancer Care Ontario ("CCO"), in collaboration with the Provincial Vascular Access Working Group ("PVAWG") to provide patients with standardized educational material about Catheters. This Fact Sheet is to be used for informational purposes only. This Fact Sheet is not a substitute for medical advice. This Fact Sheet may not include all relevant information and is not an exhaustive resource. Always consult with your healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns. The information in this Fact Sheet does not create a physician-patient relationship between CCO/ORN/PVAWG and you.

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