

A GUIDE FOR PATIENTS

Effective Date: February 15, 2008

<p>Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC and Yukon</p> <p>The Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC and Yukon provides information regarding heart disease education and advocacy. HSF branches do not offer direct health care, but rather they offer information and various care management strategies.</p> <p>B.C./Yukon Division Office 1212 West Broadway Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3V2 Telephone: 604 736-4404 Toll-Free: 1 888 473-4636 Fax: 604 736-8732 Web site: http://www.heartandstroke.ca/</p>	<p>Heart Function Clinics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pentiction 250 492-4000 • Fraser Health (Burnaby Hospital) 604 412-6109 • Fraser Health (Surrey Memorial Hospital) 604 588-3003 • Vancouver (St Pauls Hospital) 604 806-8733 • Vancouver Island Health Authority (Royal Jubilee Hospital) 250 519-1601 <p>The Canadian network of Heart Failure Clinics maintains an excellent Web site that includes a video explaining heart failure. Log on to: http://www.cchfcn.org/nonmembers</p>	<p>Common Medications for Heart Failure</p> <p>ACE Inhibitors These are drugs such as ramipril, enalapril, captopril, and lisinopril. They help improve your heart's pumping action and prevent your disease from getting worse. Angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) have a similar function.</p> <p>Beta Blockers These are drugs such as carvedilol, bisoprolol and metoprolol. They reduce how hard your heart has to work and prevent your disease from getting worse. They also help to prevent and treat irregular heartbeat.</p> <p>Diuretics These are drugs such as furosemide. They work to improve symptoms by relieving fluid overload.</p> <p>Aldosterone Antagonists Drugs such as spironolactone block some of the negative complications and keep potassium levels steady when you are on a diuretic.</p>
<p>Local Community Health Services/Rehabilitation Support</p> <p>There are a number of other health professionals who may assist you. Whenever possible, develop a consistent relationship with each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Health Nurses • Nutritionists • Pharmacists • Cardiologist/Geriatrian /Other internist • Healthy heart programs • Support groups • Cardiac rehabilitation centres • Cardiac Nurse Specialists • Palliative Care Teams 	<p>The Healthy Heart Society</p> <p>The Society is involved in building the capacity of communities to develop and maintain healthy heart programs. It maintains a Web site with a list of cardiac rehabilitation programs throughout the province.</p> <p>Suite 401 1212 West Broadway Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3V2 Telephone: 604 742-1772 Fax: 604 742-1773 Toll free: 1 888 742-1772 Web site: http://www.heartbc.ca</p>	<p>Diuretics These are drugs such as furosemide. They work to improve symptoms by relieving fluid overload.</p> <p>Aldosterone Antagonists Drugs such as spironolactone block some of the negative complications and keep potassium levels steady when you are on a diuretic.</p> <p>Digoxin Usually called digoxin or lanoxin. This drug works to help relieve symptoms or control irregular heartbeat.</p> <p>Anti-coagulants Drugs such as aspirin and warfarin are used to prevent heart attack and/or stroke.</p>
<p>Ministry of Health Primary Health Care</p> <p>Web site: http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/cdm/patients/chf/</p>	<p>BC HealthGuide Web site: http://www.bchealthguide.org</p> <p>BC HealthGuide NurseLine: The 24-Hour BC HealthGuide NurseLine puts you in touch with a registered nurse any time, day or night, just by calling one of the following numbers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Province-wide toll free: 1 866 215-4700 • Local calling within Lower Mainland: 604 215-4700 • Deaf and hearing-impaired toll-free, province wide: 1 889 TTY-4700 	<p>BC HealthGuide Web site: http://www.bchealthguide.org</p> <p>BC HealthGuide NurseLine: The 24-Hour BC HealthGuide NurseLine puts you in touch with a registered nurse any time, day or night, just by calling one of the following numbers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Province-wide toll free: 1 866 215-4700 • Local calling within Lower Mainland: 604 215-4700 • Deaf and hearing-impaired toll-free, province wide: 1 889 TTY-4700

PATIENT REMINDERS

Heart Failure

Heart Failure (HF) is a condition which usually happens over a period of time.

With HF, the heart muscle is weakened and does not pump well.

This can result in poor blood circulation to tissues and organs of the body. Also, blood can “back up” causing symptoms such as:

- Shortness of breath
- Swelling of hands and lower legs
- Sensation of bloating
- Irregular heart beat
- Waking at night with sudden shortness of breath
- Trouble breathing when lying flat

Steps to Help Reduce Symptoms

1. Weigh yourself daily before breakfast.

Your goal weight is:

2. Limit fluid intake to 6 to 8 cups per day

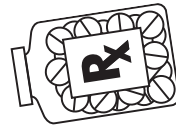
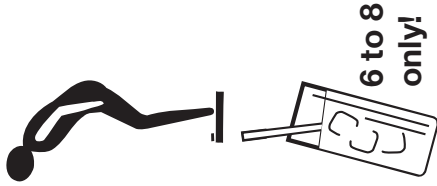
3. Avoid high salt foods

4. Don't add extra salt to your food

5. Take your medications as prescribed

6. Try to get a little exercise each day

7. Avoid alcohol and smoking



When to Call or Visit Your Doctor

If you gain 5 lbs (2.5 kg) in a week or 4 lbs (2kg) in 2 days

If you are thinking of changing any of your medications (including non-prescription)

If you notice any of the following:

- Chest pain
- Sudden dizziness or heart palpitations
- Increased fatigue
- Trouble breathing when lying flat
- Increased shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing at night
- Increased signs of swelling such as swollen ankles, bloating, or clothing feels tight

