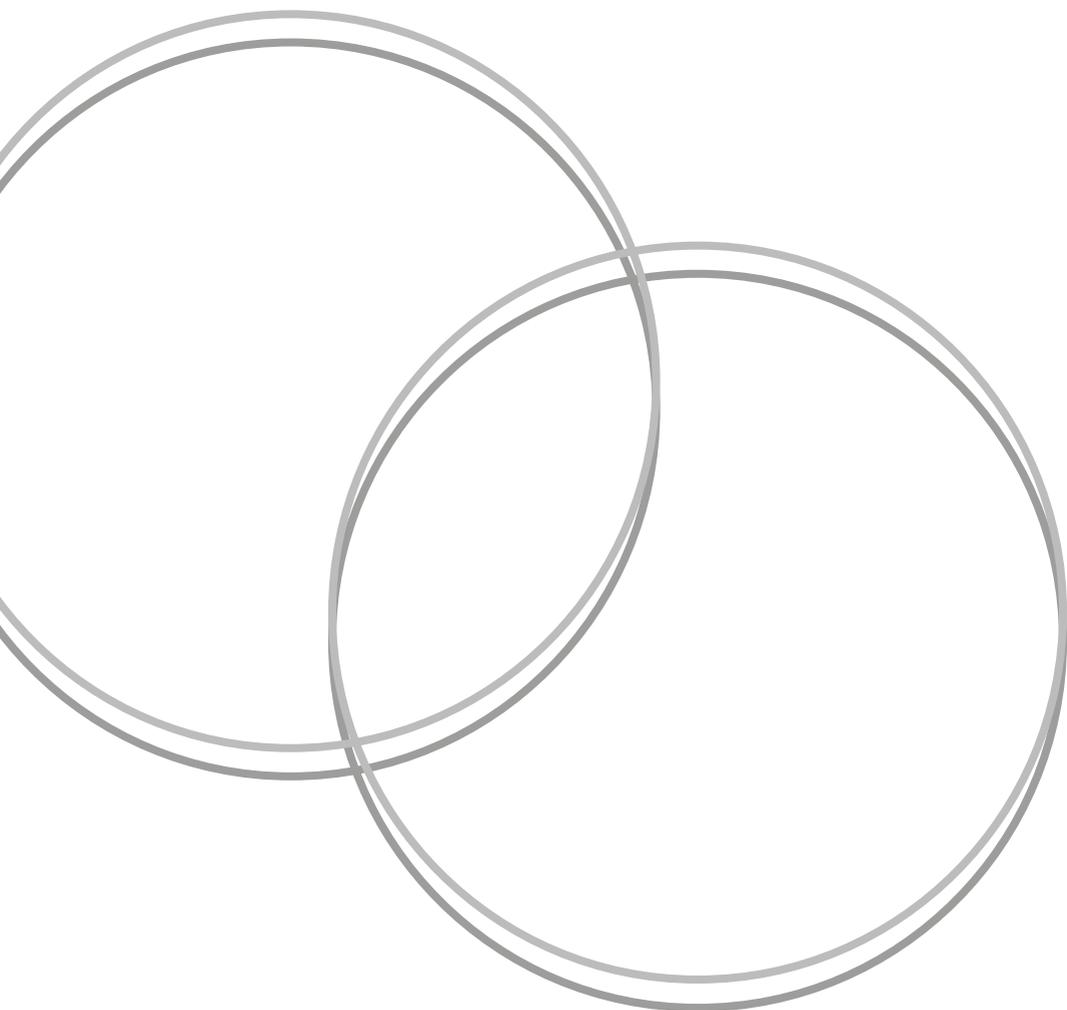




Oxford University Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Propranolol

**Information for parents  
and carers**



## What is propranolol?

Propranolol is from a group of drugs called beta-blockers. It is used for children with heart problems, to control high blood pressure or irregular heartbeats. It may also be given to control cyanotic spells in children with tetralogy of Fallot.

## How does propranolol work?

Propranolol acts on the heart muscle, to slow the heart rate and prevent the heart working too hard.

## How should it be taken?

It is important that propranolol is taken regularly, as prescribed. This is usually as a three times a day dose.

The standard strength we use is 50mgs in 5mls. It comes as a liquid and is given using an oral syringe. Propranolol also comes as 10mg and 40mg tablets, if preferred.

**Your chemist may stock different strength liquids. Please check each new prescription and the medication from the chemist. If you are unsure of the dose to give, speak to your chemist or call your child's Cardiac Nurse Specialist.**

The liquid should be stored at room temperature, out of direct sunlight.

## **What side effects may occur?**

Propranolol doesn't usually cause any serious side effects. It will cause your child's heart to beat more slowly. It may also cause low blood pressure and cold hands and feet. Rarely it can cause bronchospasm, disturbed sleep and may make them feel sick. Children can also feel tired and lethargic while taking propranolol.

Another potential side effect is a drop in blood glucose levels. We may ask you to give your child regular feeds to prevent this from happening.

**Further prescriptions will need to be provided by your child's GP.**

**This medicine should not be stopped without advice from a doctor.**

## Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

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[www.ouh.nhs.uk/information](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/information)



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