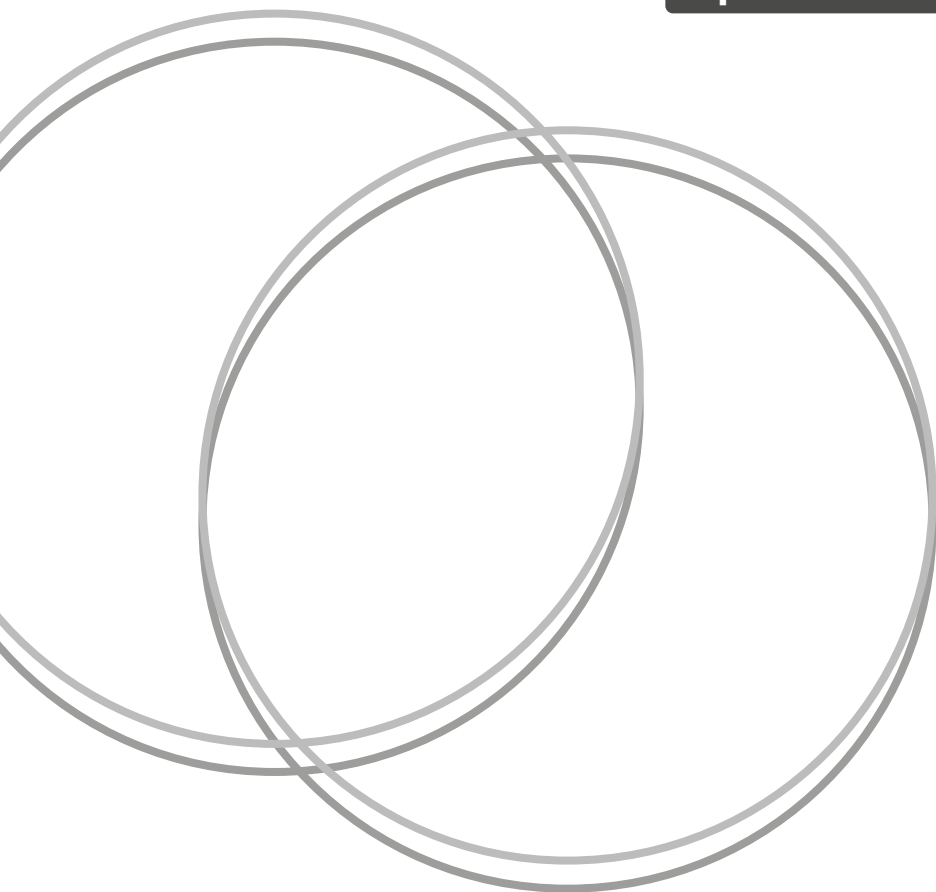




**Oxford University Hospitals**  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Captopril

**Information for  
parents and carers**



## What is captopril?

Captopril is in a group of drugs called ACE inhibitors. Captopril is a medicine used in children with heart problems. This may be used to control high blood pressure or to reduce the workload of the heart in children with heart failure. Children will need to come into hospital for the day to start treatment, as we need to give a test dose and monitor their blood pressure.

## How does captopril work?

Captopril causes small arteries to relax, reducing the blood pressure and allowing the heart to work more efficiently. A potential side effect is a drop in blood pressure, therefore the dosage is gradually increased.

## How should it be taken?

It is important captopril is taken regularly; usually three times a day, often in combination with medicines called diuretics (such as furosemide and spironolactone). When starting captopril we will ask you to give diuretics 1-2 hours apart from the captopril as a precaution against a drop in blood pressure.

A liquid is usually dispensed in a strength of 5mg in 5ml or 25mg in 5ml. Tablets are available for older children: 12.5mg, 25mg and 50mg. Tablets can also be dispersed in water and given using an oral syringe.

**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.**

## What side effects may occur?

Most children tolerate captopril quite well. Some children experience low blood pressure which has been known to cause dizziness. Skin rashes and a change of taste (usually for a short time only) have also been reported. Some children also complain of a dry cough, nausea or vomiting and alopecia.

If your child feels dizzy then lying down will help. Please report any side effects to your doctor or Children's Cardiac Nurse Specialist.

Blood tests will be required to monitor kidney function while your child is taking captopril.

**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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