

Cardiovascular Medications

Inotropes and Anti-arrhythmics

- ❖ It is important for you to become familiar with your medication. If you can understand what it does you can assist your doctor in evaluating the effectiveness and monitor side effects.
- ❖ Discuss with your doctor expected side effects and symptoms to report immediately.
- ❖ Do not stop taking or skip doses of your medications.
- ❖ Refill all medications unless your doctor specified a specific length of treatment.
- ❖ You should carry a list of every medication you take including name, dosage, and frequency including over the counter medications. Always check with your doctor before taking over the counter medications.

Inotropes

- ❖ YOU ARE CURRENTLY ON: _____ . See Discharge Depart Summary for most updated list.
- ❖ USED TO TREAT: congestive heart failure, irregular and rapid heart beats
- ❖ HOW IT WORKS: slows heart rate and makes pumping action of heart stronger so more blood is pumped with each beat
- ❖ SIDE EFFECTS: skipped heartbeats, slow or rapid heartbeats, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, blurred vision, double vision
- ❖ Most of the side effects occur when there is too much of this drug in your blood. Your doctor will periodically check your blood level.
- ❖ Check your pulse before taking this medication. If it is irregular or below 50 beats per minute, you should contact your doctor before taking this medicine.

Anti-arrhythmics

- ❖ YOU ARE CURRENTLY ON: _____ . See Discharge Depart Summary for most updated list.
- ❖ USED TO TREAT: prevention or control of irregularities in heart rate or rhythm
- ❖ HOW IT WORKS: effects the electrical system of the heart or the heart cells directly to prevent irregular heart rhythms
- ❖ SIDE EFFECTS: specific to each drug
- ❖ It is important to take antiarrhythmic drugs on schedule. If ordered every six hours, wake up during the night to take your dosage.
- ❖ Some of these medications will be monitored by checking the level of the drug in your blood.

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