


Pharmacy department  
Evelina London Children's Hospital  
Royal Brompton Hospital



## ACE inhibitors for children

This leaflet gives more information about the medicines captopril, [enalapril](#) and [lisinopril](#). If you have any questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for your child.

Your child has been prescribed an angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor to help improve their heart function or reduce their blood pressure. You should already have been given a leaflet from 'Medicines for children' about these medicines. If you have not got one, please ask a clinician caring for your child or use the QR code below. You should read our leaflet with the leaflet from 'Medicines for children'. This is so that you understand why ACE inhibitors are being recommended for your child, and any risks associated with them.

You can use these QR codes to read more information about the medicines on the Medicines for children website:

For heart failure
Captopril


For high blood pressure	
Enalapril	Lisinopril
	

## Side effects

### Kidney function

These medicines can affect kidney function and we will monitor this.

#### Let us know if your child:

- has diarrhoea (runny poo)
- is vomiting (being sick)
- has an illness that affects their eating or drinking

These can all cause dehydration, which can limit the amount of blood going through the kidneys, meaning they might not work properly. This, combined with a medicine that can affect your child's kidney function, can put your child at risk. To help reduce the risk, we might ask you to stop giving your child the medicine during this time.

### Blood pressure

These medicines can lower your child's blood pressure.

If your child is being treated with captopril, they will usually start taking it in hospital, so that we can monitor their blood pressure afterwards. This might be done as an overnight admission or a day-case appointment. This may also happen if your child starts taking enalapril or lisinopril.

Lisinopril and enalapril are usually taken one time each day. If your child is prescribed either of these medicines, they should take it at night-time. This is so that any dizziness or low blood pressure does not affect their usual activities.

### A dry cough

These medicines can cause a dry cough. It is completely harmless, but let us know if it's troublesome for your child.

The leaflet from Medicines for children has more information about other possible side effects.

## Monitoring plan

While your child is taking these medicines, the hospital will monitor their kidney (renal) function and electrolytes. This is done by having blood tests:

- before starting treatment
- 1 to 2 weeks after starting treatment
- if a dose is changed

If your child is on long-term treatment, the hospital will repeat these tests every year.

If your child has an unstable heart or kidney condition, they may need blood tests more often because of the risk of kidney damage. Your doctor will tell you if this needs to be done for your child.

## Repeat prescriptions

Please make sure that you request a repeat prescription for these medicines from your GP **at least 2 weeks before** your child runs out of them.

## Different strengths of medicine

The liquid form of these medicines may be available in different strengths. This is sometimes called the 'concentration' of the liquid.

If your child is taking a liquid medicine, it is very important that you check the dosing instructions on each new bottle, to keep your child safe. This is because you may have been given a different strength of the liquid, and the amount that you need to give may have changed.

If it looks different, or if you have any concerns, speak to your local pharmacist, or the Royal Brompton or Evelina hospitals' pharmacy teams, or contact your child's clinical nurse specialist for help.

### Contact details

- **Evelina Hospital pharmacy team,**  
**phone:** 020 7188 3003, **email:** [LetsTalkMedicines@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:LetsTalkMedicines@gstt.nhs.uk)
- **Royal Brompton Hospital children's pharmacy,**  
**phone:** 020 7352 8121 extension 84375,  
**email:** [rbh-tr.paediatricpharmacy@nhs.net](mailto:rbh-tr.paediatricpharmacy@nhs.net)



**Resource number: 5498/VER1**

Last reviewed: September 2024

Next review due: September 2027

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