

# Your Heart Failure Medications:

## *What you need to know*



Medications are a very important part of your heart failure treatment. This guide can help you learn more. It is not meant to replace the advice of your provider. If you have questions or concerns about your medications or how they make you feel, always talk with your provider about them.

### Facts about heart failure medications

#### **EACH ONE WORKS IN A DIFFERENT WAY**

You might take one or more medications every day. Be sure you're only taking medications your doctor has prescribed you.

Your provider may prescribe medication to:

- Help your heart work better
- Help you breathe more easily
- Help you get rid of extra fluid
- Help you feel better
- Help you stay out of the hospital
- Help you live longer

#### **HOW THE MEDICATIONS MAY MAKE YOU FEEL**

Some medications for heart failure may affect the way you feel. At each provider visit, be sure to let your provider know how each medication makes you feel. You and your provider can decide what medications are best for you and how to manage any side effects.

Keep taking your medications even when you are feeling better. If you need to stop a medication, always talk with your provider first. Many heart failure medications should not be stopped all at once. Your provider can work with you to reduce your dose slowly.

#### **TALK WITH YOUR PROVIDER ABOUT YOUR MEDICATION**

Ask these questions so you know how to take your medication the right way.

- 1.** What is the name of the medication?
- 2.** How will this medication help me?
- 3.** At what time of day should I take this medication?
- 4.** Should I take it with food or without?
- 5.** What should I do if I miss a dose?
- 6.** Are there any other medications that I should not take with this medication?

*This material was adapted from GSK.*

MeridianComplete is a health plan that contracts with both Medicare and Illinois Medicaid to provide benefits of both programs to enrollees.

**ATTENTION:** If you speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call **1-855-580-1689** (TTY: **711**).

**ATENCIÓN:** si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al **1-855-580-1689** (TTY: **711**).