

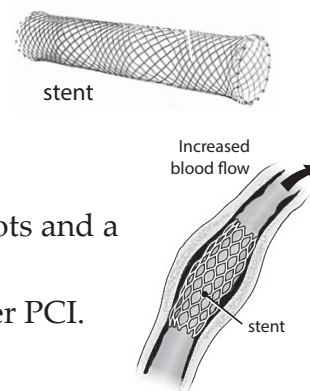
## Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI)

### Important information about medications

You have had a stent (a small wire mesh tube) inserted into a blocked blood vessel in your heart. The stent opens your blocked blood vessel and keeps it open. After the procedure, the stent stays in the vessel.

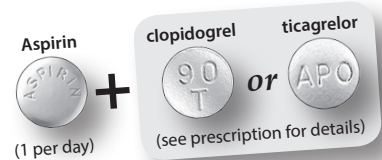
### Having a stent means taking special medications

- A stent is a foreign object in the body. It can cause a blood clot to form. We have prescribed medications that prevent blood clots from forming.
- If you do not take these medications, you will have higher risk of blood clots and a heart attack
- The risk of developing blood clots is greatest during the first 6 months after PCI.



### What do I need to do after my PCI?

Most patients must take 2 medications every day after PCI. These medications are **aspirin and an anti-clotting medication. The anti-clotting medication is either clopidogrel or ticagrelor.** How long you take the anti-clotting medications depends on the type of stent you have. Your medicine bottle will have instructions for how long you need to take them. These medications will:



- prevent dangerous blood clots
- reduce your risk of heart attack and stroke

Like any medication, these can have side effects. The most common side effects are bleeding, bruising and nose-bleeds. If you have difficult or irregular breathing, wheezing, itchy throat or mouth, and difficulty swallowing, you may be having an allergic reaction. Go to the nearest emergency department.

**Not all patients will be prescribed all of these medications – check with your doctor.**

**DO NOT STOP taking aspirin, clopidogrel or ticagrelor without talking to your doctor.**

*Note:* Your nurse will give you a drug information sheet. Please read it carefully.

### When do I take my medication?

1. Start your medication **before noon the day** after your discharge from the hospital. For example, if you go home on Tuesday, start your medication on Wednesday before noon.
2. Your nurse may give you medication to take home. In this case, make sure you fill your prescription **before** you run out.
3. Take your medication according to your prescription. If you have concerns, talk to your family doctor or pharmacist.
4. You may need to take other medications. Always **take all your medications as prescribed.** Always talk to your doctor before stopping any medication.

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The information in this document is intended solely for the person to whom it was given by the health care team.

This material has been reviewed and approved by patients, families and staff.

