## heart failure medications HOW THEY WORK

Class: digoxin

Common name: digoxin (Lanoxin)

Where it works: heart

How it works: helps to control heart rate; helps reduce symptoms of heart failure for some people

Class: diuretics

Common name: furosemide (Lasix)

bumetamide (Bumex)

metolazone (Zaroxolyn)

Where it works: kidneys

How it works: helps kidneys get rid of excess fluid; helps reduce symptoms of heart failure

Class: aldosterone antagonists

Common name: spironolactone

(Aldactone)

Where it works: heart, kidneys,

blood vessels

How it works: prevents buildup of chemicals harmful to the heart; slows progression of

heart failure

Class: beta-blockers

Common name: carvedilol (Coreg)

bisoprolol (Zebeta) metoprolol (Toprol XL)

Where it works: heart

How it works: helps heart pump easier; reduces angina; prevents buildup of chemicals that are harmful to the heart; helps to control heart rate; slows progression of heart failure

Class: ACE inhibitors

Common name: lisinopril (Zestril, Prinivil)

captopril (Capoten) hydralazine (Apresoline)

Where it works: heart, kidneys, blood vessels

How it works: helps heart pump easier; relaxes and widens blood vessels; prevents buildup of chemicals harmful to the heart; slows progression of

heart failure

Class: ARB

Common name: losartan (Cozaar)

Where it works: same as ACE inhibitors; used as alternative when ACE inhibitors cause cough, rash, or

throat swelling

How it works: same as ACE inhibitors

Drug combination: long-acting nitrate and hydralazine

Common name: isosorbide dinitrate (Isordil)

isosorbide mononitrate (Imdur)

hydralazine (Apresoline)

Where it works: heart, blood vessels

How it works: helps heart pump easier, relaxes and widens blood

vessels, slows progression of heart failure

This information is not intended to diagnose health problems or to take the place of medical advice or care you receive from your physician or other health care professional. If you have persistent health problems, or if you have additional questions, please consult with your doctor. If you have questions or need more information about your medication, please speak to your pharmacist. Kaiser Permanente does not endorse the medications or products mentioned. Any trade names listed are for easy identification only.

