

# Going Home after Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI)

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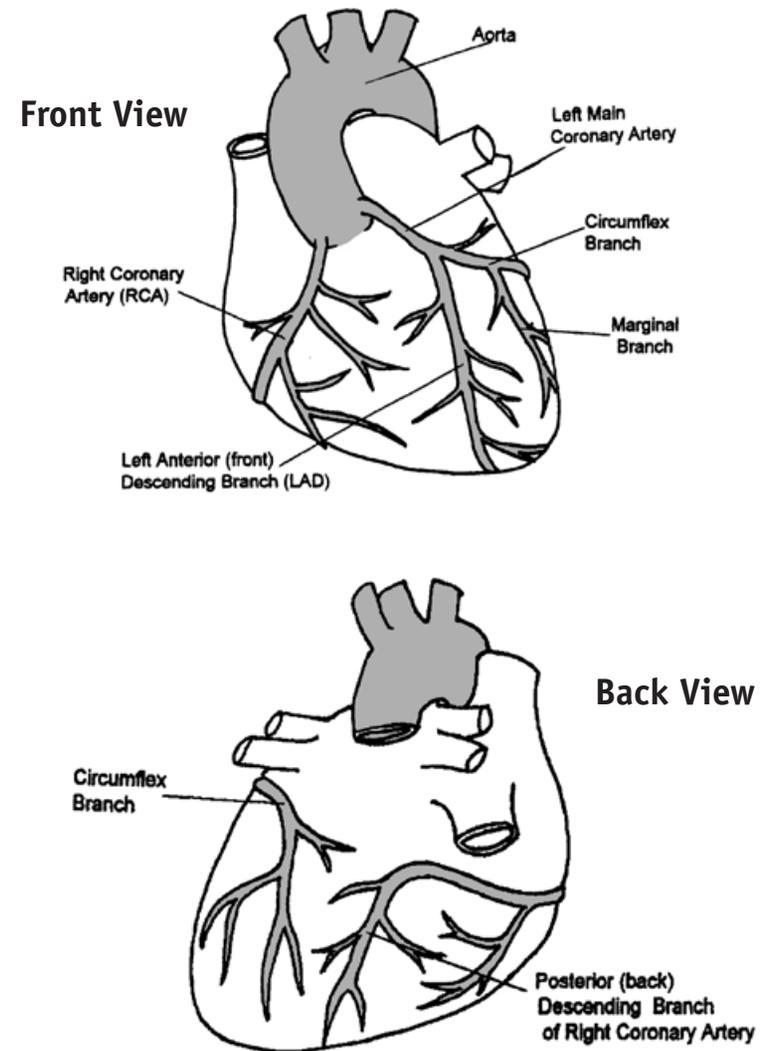


How you want to be treated.

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## The Heart and Coronary Arteries



## Discharge Instructions

1. You must make follow up appointments with your:
  - a) Family Doctor in one week: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Your referring Cardiologist or specialist in one month: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Ask your family doctor about your return to work
3. The BC Motor Vehicle Act has regulations about driving for heart patients. Ask your family doctor and see page 8.
4. a) **Do Not Stop** Aspirin without asking your cardiologist.  
b) **Do Not Stop** clopidogrel (Plavix®) before your prescription is finished without asking your cardiologist.
5. **Do Not** have a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan during the **First 6 Weeks After** stent placement without a cardiologist's approval.
6. Metal detectors do not affect the stent(s).

**Refer to the Centre Page for your medication calendar.**

## Dressing Care

- ◆ You may remove the bandage 1 day after your Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI).
- ◆ You may shower 1 day after your PCI.
- ◆ **Do Not** sit upright for more than 1 hour at a time during the first day at home.
- ◆ If traveling for long periods, stretch your legs out and get up and walk every hour during the first day going home.
- ◆ You may see a hematoma (soft lump or bruise) around the hole or even down the leg where the PCI was done. This is normal.
- ◆ **It is Not Normal** when the hematoma suddenly gets bigger or harder. This means you are bleeding. If this should happen you must:
  - Lie down
  - Ask someone to **Press Down Hard for 15 Minutes** just above the hole where the PCI was done.
    - You will know if you are doing this right if the hematoma does not get bigger or harder.
  - **Do Not Stop** pressing to check under your fingers during the first 15 minutes.
  - If the bleeding has stopped after 15 minutes, **rest and lie down for 2 more hours** before getting up.

### **IMPORTANT:**

**If the bleeding does not stop after 15 minutes,  
Call 911**

for an ambulance to take you to the hospital.

## Medications

For your safety, we recommend that you:

- ◆ **Know** the names, doses and how often you take all the medications prescribed to you by your doctor.
- ◆ **Know Why** you are taking all your medications.
- ◆ **Always** bring a current list of your medications and the correct pill bottles each time you go to the hospital.
- ◆ **Talk** with your doctor before taking any herbal supplements.

Your community pharmacist is a good resource.

See the centre pull-out for your medication calendar.

## Some Common Types of Cardiac Medications

- ◆ **ACE Inhibitor:** Lowers blood pressure, improves heart function, reduces risk of heart attacks and prolongs life. For example: captopril, enalapril, ramipril and tradenomes.
- ◆ **Anticoagulant** (“blood thinner”): Prevents clots in blood vessels and many other conditions, reduces risk of heart attacks and prolongs life. For example: warfarin (Coumadin®).
  - Warfarin (Coumadin®) **Is Not** a substitute for Aspirin or clopidogrel (Plavix®).
- ◆ **Antiplatelet** (“blood thinner”): Prevents clots in blood vessels, reduces risk of heart attacks, prevents clots in newly placed stents and prolongs life.  
For example: Aspirin and clopidogrel (Plavix®).
  - **Do Not Stop** Aspirin without asking your cardiologist.
  - **Do Not Stop** clopidogrel (Plavix®) before your prescription is finished without asking your cardiologist.

- ◆ **Angiotensin Receptor Blocker (ARB):** Lowers blood pressure, improves heart function and can be used as a substitute for ACE Inhibitors. For example: candesartan, losartan and valsartan.
- ◆ **Beta Blocker:** Lowers blood pressure and heart rate, reduces angina, improves heart function, reduces risk of heart attacks and prolongs life. For example: acebutolol, atenolol and metoprolol.
- ◆ **Calcium Channel Blocker:** Treats angina, lowers blood pressure and can be used to control heart rate. For example: amlodipine, diltiazem, nifedipine, verapamil and felodipine.
- ◆ **Lipid Lowering Agent:** (“statin”) Lowers cholesterol and other fats in the blood, reduces risk of heart attacks and prolongs life. For example: atorvastatin, lovastatin, pravastatin, simvastatin, gemfibrozil and niacin.
- ◆ Your community pharmacist is a good resource for more information
- ◆ See the centre pull out for your medication calendar.

## Angina

- ◆ In about 25% of patients who have had a PCI, angina comes back.
- ◆ Treat the angina the same way as you did before your PCI:
  - Lie down.
  - Nitroglycerin 0.4mg - spray once under the tongue
  - If the pain doesn't get better after one spray, or gets worse, **Call 911**
  - If the angina stops, tell your family doctor as soon as you can.
- ◆ Remember to check your nitroglycerin for the expiry date

## Exercise Guidelines

- ◆ The purpose of a PCI is for you to return to your previous level of activity and enjoy life.
- ◆ However, during the initial period after the procedure, common sense and moderation are recommended.
- ◆ **No** heavy activities for **5 Days**. For example:
  - **Do Not** lift, push or pull anything that weighs more than 10 pounds (e.g. heavy laundry, groceries or a golf cart).
  - **Do Not** exercise aggressively, golf, vacuum, mow or rake lawns, or move furniture.
- ◆ After the first 7 days, after you have seen your family doctor, it is important for you to do moderate exercise for 30 minutes or more, 5 times a week. This will strengthen your heart.
- ◆ If you were not exercising before, walk daily with a gradual increase in distance and speed. An example of a walking schedule is:

Day	Blocks Out	Blocks In	Total Blocks
1	1/2	1/2	1
2	1	1	2
3	1 1/2	1 1/2	3
4	2	2	4
5	2 1/2	2 1/2	5
6	3	3	6
7	3 1/2	3 1/2	7
8	4	4	8
9	4 1/2	4 1/2	9
10	5	5	10

- ◆ Aim for a goal of 24 blocks out and 24 blocks in, about 36 minutes each way.

- ◆ See page 12 to find a cardiac exercise program near you.
- ◆ **Special Considerations:**
  - **Always** carry your nitroglycerin spray or tablets with you.
  - **Do Not** walk immediately after meals; wait 1 hour.
  - Walking in extreme temperatures, such as very hot summer days or cold, rainy or snowy winter days. This can increase tiredness and angina. You should avoid this.

## Sexual Activity

- ◆ **Ask Your Cardiologist** when you can resume sexual activities.
- ◆ **As a Rule**, you may resume sexual activities if you can:
  - Climb 2 flights of stairs at a fairly brisk pace **without:**
    - becoming short of breath or
    - having angina
- ◆ **Special Considerations:**
  - Many medications can affect sexual function. Do not stop any medications on your own. Discuss this with your doctor first.
  - **Do Not** have sexual activities to “prove” that you have recovered.
  - **Do not** begin sexual activities immediately after meals; wait 2 hours.
  - **Avoid** sexual activity after drinking alcohol, smoking or if you feel tired.
  - Having your partner on top may reduce your workload on your heart.
  - If you feel uneasy about resuming sexual activity, allow more time for hugging, caressing and getting to know your partner again.

## Driving

- ◆ **Ask Your Cardiologist** when you can resume driving/flying privately or commercially and/or operating heavy equipment.
- ◆ Someone **MUST** drive you home on the day of discharge.
- ◆ Someone **MUST** be with you the first time you drive.
- ◆ **Avoid** stressful situations that may increase your blood pressure. For example, night driving and rush hour traffic.

## Returning to Work

- ◆ Your return date will depend on whether you have had a heart attack, any complications, the type of work you do, your age and your overall physical stamina. Ask your family doctor about the specific date.

## Cholesterol and Diet

- ◆ The amount of cholesterol in your blood is affected by many factors.
- ◆ The **total fat in food** has **more of an effect on blood cholesterol** than cholesterol in food.
- ◆ The following **6 steps to heart healthy eating** are important to helping you control your weight and lower your blood cholesterol:  
To begin, start at step 1. As you complete each step, add another step. Continue until you have included all 6 steps in your heart healthy eating!
  - **Step 1:** Reduce all added fats.
  - **Step 2:** Eat more whole grain products.
  - **Step 3:** Eat more vegetables and fruit.
  - **Step 4:** Choose lower fat milk products.
  - **Step 5:** Select smaller, leaner portions of meat and alternatives. Eat more fish.
  - **Step 6:** Limit high fat snacks and desserts
  - **Success!** You did it! Having a heart healthy diet will help you keep your weight in a healthy range. This in turn will help your heart.
- ◆ **Reduce** your salt intake. Added salt increases water retention in your body, increases your blood pressure and increases the amount of work on your heart.

## Smoking

- ◆ You should stop smoking.
- ◆ Smoking is especially dangerous during the first 4 weeks after a PCI because it will contribute to “clotting” the recently placed stent(s). This can cause a heart attack.
- ◆ Smoking causes all your heart and brain arteries to narrow. This increases the risk for a heart attack and stroke.
- ◆ You do not have to struggle on your own.
- ◆ Think about a stop-smoking program. Ask your doctors or nurses to learn more about this.

## Alcohol

- ◆ For men, no more than 2 drinks a day.
- ◆ For women, no more than 1 drink a day.

## Some Common Feelings

Sometimes people with heart conditions feel sad, down, or just not interested in life. Sometimes they feel anxious or nervous.

If you are bothered by these feelings, call your family doctor. Help is available. Your overall health and your heart health will improve if you get help.

## Community and other Resources

### Cardiac Education

- ◆ **Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada**  
[www.heartandstroke.ca](http://www.heartandstroke.ca)  
(also follow links to BC & Yukon section for local programs)  
1-888-473-4636
- ◆ **St. Paul’s Hospital Healthy Heart Program**  
[www.healthyheart.org](http://www.healthyheart.org)  
604-806-8591
- ◆ **www.heartbc.ca**  
follow link to “Community Heart Health Database”
- ◆ **Diagnostic Tests, Procedures, Surgery and other Treatments for Heart Disease**  
[www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=504](http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=504)  
1-800-242-8721
- ◆ **Heartsite.com**  
[www.heartsite.com](http://www.heartsite.com)  
Contains information, especially animations describing circulation, different tests and cardiac procedures.
- ◆ **Intellihealth**  
[www.intellihealth.com](http://www.intellihealth.com)  
Wide-ranging information on many health topics. There is a great section for caregivers.

## Cardiac Exercise Programs

The following programs offers different types of exercises. It is best to call the program directly to find out which program is suitable for you and whether or not you need a doctor's referral.

[www.heartbc.ca/cpsg/s6bcrehab.htm](http://www.heartbc.ca/cpsg/s6bcrehab.htm)

1-800-663-2010 for a program near you.

- ◆ Burnaby Hospital  
604-412-6488
- ◆ Chilliwack YMCA  
604-792-3371
- ◆ Kamloops, YMCA  
250-372-7725
- ◆ Kelowna, Central Okanagan Association for Cardiac Health (C.O.A.C.H)  
250-763-3433
- ◆ New Westminster YMCA  
604-521-5801
- ◆ North Vancouver: Lion's Gate Hospital  
604-984-5933 / 604-984-5752
- ◆ North Vancouver: Delbrook Recreation Centre  
250-987-7529
- ◆ North Vancouver: Harry Jerome Recreation Centre  
604-983-6423
- ◆ Oak Bay Recreation Centre: Henderson Centre  
250-595-7946
- ◆ Prince George: Edmonton Street  
250-565-7432
- ◆ Prince George YMCA  
250-562-9341
- ◆ Richmond: Minoru Pavillion  
604-718-8004

- ◆ Smithers: Bulkley Valley District Hospital  
250-847-4406
- ◆ Vancouver Hospital Cardiac Rehab  
604-875-5389
- ◆ Vancouver: Jewish Community Centre  
604-257-5111 extension 214
- ◆ Vancouver: Munro Clinic  
604-875-5389
- ◆ Vancouver: St. Paul's Hospital Healthy Heart Program  
604-806-8591  
[www.healthyheart.org](http://www.healthyheart.org)
- ◆ Vancouver: Shaughnessy Cardiac Alumni Members Society  
604-266-4356 / 604-943-0984 / 604-261-4774
- ◆ Vancouver: S.U.C.C.E.S.S. (in Cantonese)  
604-684-1628
- ◆ Vancouver YMCA Downtown  
604-633-3573
- ◆ Vancouver: South Slope Family YMCA  
604-324-9622
- ◆ Vernon Jubilee Hospital  
250-558-1203 extension 204 / 396
- ◆ Vernon Parks and Recreation  
250-545-6035
- ◆ Victoria YMCA  
604-386-7511
- ◆ West Vancouver: Eagle Harbour Community Centre  
604-925-7270
- ◆ Heart in Motion Walking Clubs located in the Lower Mainland, BC, and Yukon Areas.  
[www.heartbc.ca/resources/r\\_HSFHeartsInMotion.htm](http://www.heartbc.ca/resources/r_HSFHeartsInMotion.htm)  
1-888-473-4636
  - These clubs provide the healthy benefit of walking in a fun and social environment.

## Nutrition for a Healthy Heart

- ◆ Canada's Food Guide  
[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpfb-dgpsa/onpp-bppn/food\\_guide\\_rainbow\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpfb-dgpsa/onpp-bppn/food_guide_rainbow_e.html)  
Meal planning to eat heart healthy and risk factors of heart disease.
- ◆ Dial-a-Dietitian  
[www.dialadietitian.org](http://www.dialadietitian.org)  
604-732-9191  
1-800-667-3438  
Information on nutrition and nutritional resource.
- ◆ Dietitians of Canada  
[www.dietitians.ca](http://www.dietitians.ca)  
Source of information on food and nutrition for Canadians.
- ◆ Healthcheck  
[www.healthcheck.org](http://www.healthcheck.org)  
This is a program that will help you make wise food choices while grocery shopping (based on Canada's Food Guide to Health Eating).
- ◆ Becel Canada  
[www.becelcanada.com](http://www.becelcanada.com)  
1-800-563-5574  
Meal planning to eat heart healthy and risk factors of heart disease.

## Stop Smoking

- ◆ B.C. Lung Association: Freedom from Smoking  
[www.bc.lung.ca](http://www.bc.lung.ca)  
1-800-665-5864  
604-731-5864
- ◆ Quit Now By Phone  
1-877-455-2233  
24 hours/day, 100 languages spoken
- ◆ Vancouver Coastal Health Authority  
[www.vch.ca](http://www.vch.ca) - click on "Healthy Living"
- ◆ B.C. Lung Association: Quit Now  
<http://bc.quitnet.com>
- ◆ St. Paul's Hospital Healthy Heart (Smoking Cessation) Program  
604-806-8591
- ◆ Health Canada: Go Smoke Free  
[www.gosmokefree.com](http://www.gosmokefree.com)  
1-866-318-1116  
The facts about health effects, second hand smoke, toxic emissions, quitting and the tobacco industry.
- ◆ Chinese Stop Smoking Helpline  
1-888-566-5864  
Mandarin and Cantonese service
- ◆ Canadian Lung Association  
1-888-566-5864  
[www.lung.ca](http://www.lung.ca)
- ◆ Canadian Cancer Society: Fresh Start  
1-888-939-3333  
[www.cancer.ca](http://www.cancer.ca)



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[www.vch.ca](http://www.vch.ca)

Medication Calendar for: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Completed By: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* Always bring a current list of your pills with the **Original Pill Bottles** to the hospital\*\*  
 \*\*Talk to your doctor before taking any herbal supplements\*\*

MEDICATION NAME	DOSE	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER	BEDTIME	COMMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS	LAST DOSE TAKEN AT
	____ mg ____ a Day					<b>ACE Inhibitor:</b> Lowers blood pressure, improves heart function, reduces risk of heart attacks and prolongs life.	
Warfarin (Coumadin®, Apo-Warfarin®, Taro-Warfarin®, Gen-Warfarin®)	____ mg Once a day <b>Or</b> as directed by your doctor					<b>Anticoagulant:</b> Prevents clots in many conditions. Your dose may change according to your blood test (INR). <b>Warfarin Is Not</b> a substitute for Aspirin (ASA®) or Clopidogrel (Plavix®). Your target INR is between: _____	
Aspirin (ASA®) <input type="checkbox"/> Enteric Coated <input type="checkbox"/> Plain	____ mg Once a Day					<b>Antiplatelet:</b> Prevents clots in blood vessels, reduces risk of heart attacks and prolongs life. <b>Do Not Stop</b> without asking your cardiologist. *Take ____ mg for ____ then *Take ____ mg for ____.	
	____ mg ____ a Day					<b>ARB (Angiotensin Receptor Blocker):</b> Lowers blood pressure, improves heart function and can be used as a substitute for ACE Inhibitors.	
	____ mg ____ a Day					<b>Beta Blocker:</b> Lowers blood pressure and heart rate, treats angina, improves heart function, reduces risk of heart attack and prolongs life.	
	____ mg ____ a Day					<b>Calcium Channel Blocker:</b> Prevents angina, lowers blood pressure and can be used to control heart rate.	
	____ mg Once a Day					<b>Lipid Lowering Agent:</b> Lowers cholesterol and other fats in the blood, reduces risk of heart attacks and prolongs life.	

\*\*\* Nitroglycerin 0.4mg Spray – spray once under the tongue only when needed for angina. \*\*\*  
 \*\* May repeat one spray after 5 minutes. If angina is still present, call 911. \*\*