

Fact sheet for consumers and carers:

Antiplatelet medication advice card following a coronary stent procedure

After your coronary (heart) stent procedure you have been prescribed antiplatelet medication. You are usually prescribed two medications, often Aspirin and one other such as Plavix[®], Iscover[®] or Effient[®]. This is known as dual antiplatelet therapy. These medications help prevent blood clots from forming within your stent. The card you have been given tells you the names of the specific medications you are taking and instructions to follow in case you are advised to stop them by anyone other than your cardiologist.

Antiplatelet Medication Advice Card		Department of Health Cardiovascular Health Network	
Following your coronary stenting procedure you have been prescribed antiplatelet medication to prevent blood clots forming:		Your name	<input type="text"/>
These should be taken daily and not be stopped under any circumstances without speaking with your Cardiologist. <i>Please show this card to your doctor, dentist or other health professional if they are considering stopping these medications.</i>		Date of birth	Date of procedure
		Cardiologist	Telephone
		Stent type	<input type="text"/>
		Antiplatelet medications	<input type="text"/>

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Questions and Answers

- When would I be asked to stop taking my antiplatelet medication?** Patients scheduled for certain medical or surgical procedures may sometimes be advised to briefly stop one of their antiplatelet medications. It is seldom necessary to stop both. It is **ESSENTIAL** that your cardiologist is consulted when any changes to your antiplatelet medication are suggested. This is to make sure appropriate decisions are made to reduce the risk of you having a heart attack if a clot forms within your stent. The card gives you and your health professionals easy access to your Cardiologist's contact details.
- When will I receive my card?** Ideally the advice card will be handed to you in the hospital, after you have had a coronary stent inserted, usually by your Cardiologist or medical or nursing staff from the cardiology area. If not, you can ask for one at a follow-up visit with your Cardiologist.
- Which Cardiologist's name is written on the card?** This is your usual Cardiologist, the one who you will visit for long term follow-up. In many cases this is NOT the Cardiologist who actually performed the stent procedure.
- What if I have undergone more than one coronary stent procedure?** The date of the most recent procedure should be written on the advice card and the previous card discarded.
- How do I get a replacement card if I need one?** You should contact your usual Cardiologist.

