

# Fact Sheet for Health Professionals:

## Antiplatelet medication advice card for coronary stent patients

The Cardiovascular Health Network has developed an antiplatelet medication advice card to help improve compliance for patients who have undergone a coronary stent procedure.

### Questions and Answers

**As a health professional, why do I need to know about the card?**

Patients who have undergone coronary stent implantation and cease their antiplatelet medications (usually Aspirin and one other) are at risk of stent thrombosis and recurrent cardiovascular events<sup>1</sup>. In line with best practice<sup>2</sup>, the primary purpose of the card is to remind people not to discontinue their antiplatelet medications without seeking advice from their Cardiologist.

**How will the card assist me to provide optimal patient care?**

All health professionals have a role in reinforcing medication compliance.

It is understood that there are clinical reasons why antiplatelet medications should be ceased for a defined period or in the longer term. However, it is essential that the patient's Cardiologist be consulted in these medication decisions to initiate plans to resume antiplatelet therapy as appropriate.

The card aims to improve communication between health professionals and provides easy access to the person's Cardiologist's contact details.

**What do I do if a person shows me this card?**

Depending on the circumstances, you may wish to record the patient's antiplatelet therapy status or the Cardiologist's contact details on their health record for future reference.

If a patient shows you the card in light of your recommendations to cease antiplatelet medications you should contact the Cardiologist to discuss medication plans.

**What if I know another person who has undergone coronary stent who doesn't have a card?**

Patients are being provided with a card during their hospital admission for a coronary stent procedure or during subsequent visits with their Cardiologist. Patients should be encouraged to ask their Cardiologist for a card at their next appointment.

### Key Messages

- Remind patients to continue taking their antiplatelet medications.
- Provide patients with easy access to the name and contact details of their Cardiologist.
- Provide a resource for other health professionals advising of prior coronary stent insertion, stent type, the requirement for antiplatelet therapy and the name and contact number of the patient's Cardiologist.

<sup>1</sup> Guidelines update for Percutaneous Coronary Intervention from the American College of Cardiology, American Heart Association and Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions.2005

<sup>2</sup> Acute Coronary Syndrome Guidelines Working Group. Guidelines for the management of acute coronary syndromes 2006. Medical Journal of Australia 2006;184(8):S1-S30.

Produced by Cardiovascular Health Network  
[www.healthnetworks.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.healthnetworks.health.wa.gov.au)

**Antiplatelet Medication Advice Card**

Following your coronary stenting procedure you have been prescribed **antiplatelet medication to prevent blood clots forming:**

**These should be taken daily and not be stopped under any circumstances without speaking with your Cardiologist. Please show this card to your doctor, dentist or other health professional if they are considering stopping these medications.**

Department of Health  
Cardiovascular Health Network

Your name

Date of birth  Date of procedure

Cardiologist  Telephone

Stent type

Antiplatelet medications

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