

Monitoring of heart failure medicines

Medication	Mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists (spironolactone, eplerenone)	ACE inhibitors/Angiotensin receptor antagonists	Diuretics	Digoxin	Beta-blockers	Ivabradine
Monitoring Parameter						
Serum Potassium	1 week after commencing or titrating dose ¹ Monthly for 6 months and then 6 monthly thereafter once stable dosing ¹	1 week after commencing or titrating dose ¹ Patients without risk factors for renal impairment be monitored every three to six months during stable maintenance therapy ²	Frequently during the first few months of frusemide therapy and periodically thereafter ²	Check before initiating ³ , and periodically thereafter ²		
Serum Creatinine	1 week after commencing or titrating dose ¹ Monthly for 6 months and then 6 monthly thereafter once stable dosing ¹	1 week after commencing or titrating dose ¹ Patients without risk factors for renal impairment be monitored every three to six months during stable maintenance therapy ²	Frequently during the first few months of frusemide therapy and periodically thereafter ²	Check before initiating ³ , and periodically thereafter ²		
Heart Rate				Check each visit ¹ and perform ECG if outside normal limits	Check each visit ¹ & perform ECG if outside normal limits	Check rate and rhythm (via palpation) regularly ⁵ and perform ECG if outside normal limits
Blood Pressure	Check each patient visit ¹	Check each patient visit ¹	Check each patient visit ¹		Check each patient visit ¹	
Serum Drug Levels				Check at steady state, (after about 7 days of therapy if renal function is normal) ³ Routinely monitor if toxicity or non-adherence is suspected ⁴		

Note: recommendations vary depending on reference used. 1. Heart Failure Medication Titration Plan http://www.health.qld.gov.au/heart_failure/asp/med_titration.asp 2. Micromedex® Healthcare Series [Internet database]. Greenwood Village, Colo: Thomson Reuters (Healthcare) Inc. Updated periodically, 3. Australian Medicines Handbook 2012 (online). Adelaide: Australian Medicines Handbook Pty Ltd., 4. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. Chronic Heart Failure, Quick Reference Guide. 2010. 5. MIMS

Information contained within this table only highlights some common monitoring parameters in heart failure patients. Please refer to a comprehensive reference such as the Australian Medicines Handbook or the product information for a full description.