

## Medications for Cirrhosis (End-stage Liver Disease)

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Cirrhosis or End-stage Liver Disease (ESLD) is when the liver is damaged beyond repair. It can be caused by various liver diseases over a long period of time or acutely and leads to liver failure.

There are medications to manage the symptoms and complications from cirrhosis.

### Liver pressure lowering agent (Non-selective Beta-blocker, NSBB)

#### Carvedilol 6.25 mg tablet



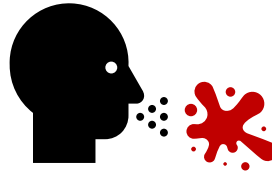
Take \_\_\_\_ tablet \_\_\_\_ time(s) daily

**AFTER** food

When the liver is hardened, the pressure around the liver increases, leading to swollen blood vessels in the food pipe, which may burst and cause vomiting of blood or passing blood in stool.

You may be prescribed either  
**Carvedilol** OR **Propranolol**

These medications reduce the pressure in the liver blood vessels, thus reduce the risk of bleeding.



#### Propranolol tablet



**10mg**

**40mg**

Take \_\_\_\_ tablet \_\_\_\_ time(s) daily

**AFTER** food

Possible side effects of Carvedilol / Propranolol include dizziness, low blood pressure, slow heartbeat, feeling weak and tired, shortness of breath.

## Reducing water retention (Diuretics)

### Spirolactone 25 mg tablet



Take \_\_ tablet in the morning

**AFTER** food

Fluid accumulation at abdomen is common complication in cirrhosis/ ESLD.

You may be prescribed either  
**Spirolactone** alone OR with **Furosemide**

These medications help to remove water from the stomach.



### Furosemide 40 mg tablet



Take \_\_\_\_ tablet \_\_\_\_ time(s) daily

**with or without food**

e.g. 8am Take \_\_ tablet  
12pm Take \_\_ tablet  
4pm Take \_\_ tablet

Possible side effects of spironolactone and furosemide include

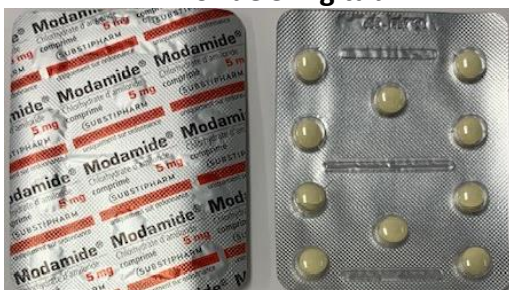
low blood pressure, changes in kidney function and salt levels,

Spirolactone: breast swelling or pain in men (rare)

Note:

Furosemide: Usually take before 4pm to avoid frequent urination at night

### Amiloride 5 mg tab



Take \_\_\_\_ tablet \_\_\_\_ time(s) daily

**with or without food**

You may be prescribed amiloride if spironolactone cause breast swelling or pain.

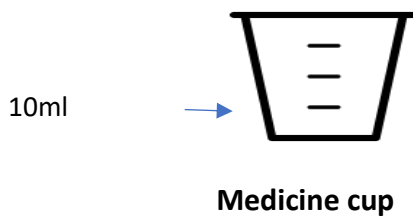
Possible side effects of amiloride include dizziness, fatigue, changes in salt level

## Treating and preventing confusion

### Lactulose Syrup Bottle (200ml)



Take \_\_\_ ml \_\_\_ times a day



Liver helps to remove toxins from the body. When the liver is hardened, toxins are not cleared, and this may cause confusion (i.e. hepatic encephalopathy)

This medication helps to pass motion, remove toxins from the body and prevent confusion.



Possible side effects of lactulose include diarrhea

Aim is to achieve **3 bowel output (BO) daily**.

1. **Increase** lactulose volume if no BO x 3 per day
2. **Reduce** lactulose volume if BO > 3 x per day
3. **Stop Lactulose** if diarrhea / loose stools > 4x per day after reducing lactulose volume

Should you have more doubts and need further clarification, reach out to your Liver pharmacists via the Pharmacy contact numbers.