



## Medications at Home: Chlorothiazide (Diuril)

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The neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) team celebrates with you as your baby goes home! After graduation from the NICU, your baby will need medication to stay well.

### Why does my baby need this medication?

- Chlorothiazide helps babies with chronic lung disease breathe easier by decreasing extra fluid in the lungs.
- It also is used to treat high blood pressure and diabetes insipidus.
- Commonly called a *water pill* (diuretic), this medication helps the kidneys get rid of extra water and salt that the body does not need.
- You may have to give other medicines with this one, such as other electrolytes (potassium).

### How, how much, and when is this medication given to my baby?

- This medication is given by mouth.
- The amount of medicine to give has been carefully calculated based on your baby's weight and needed response from the medicine. Do not change the dosage without talking to your baby's provider.
- Dose Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Measure the oral medicine with a marked measuring spoon, oral syringe, or medicine cup.

### What are possible side effects?

- Muscle weakness
- Cramps
- Dizziness
- Restlessness
- Dry mouth or increased thirst
- Decreased appetite
- Upset stomach or stomach pain
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea (watery stools) or constipation
- Changes in the amount of urine passed
- Hair loss
- High blood sugar
- Yellow eyes or skin tone

### Call your baby's provider right away if your baby has

- fever, chills, or body aches
- bleeding or bruising
- skin rash with peeling skin
- problems breathing or swallowing.

### What if my baby misses a dose or spits up the medication?

- Give the missed dose as soon as you remember it. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and stick to the regular medication schedule.
- Never give a double dose.
- Call your baby's healthcare provider if your baby misses two or more doses or spits up the medication.

### Important Medication Safety Tips

- Only give your baby medicines prescribed by your baby's provider. Do not share prescription medications with other children or adults.



- Check with your baby's provider before giving your baby any over-the-counter medicines.
- Keep all medicines out of reach of children, closed tightly in the bottle or container it came in, and with the label of directions given by the pharmacy.
- Give chlorothiazide exactly as directed by your baby's provider.
  - Never stop chlorothiazide or give more or less than prescribed without first talking with your baby's provider. Too little may not be enough to help and too much may cause harm. In case of overdose, immediately call the Poison Control Center at 800.222.1222. If you cannot wake your baby or if he or she has stopped breathing, start cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and call your local emergency medical services or 911 right away.
  - Store chlorothiazide at room temperature away from extreme heat or cold.
- Your baby may need blood tests while on this medication.
- Always use the five *rights* when giving medication to your baby:
  - Right baby (if other children are in the home)
  - Right medication
  - Right amount (always measure the dose with the syringe or dropper provided by the pharmacy, not a common household teaspoon)
  - Right time
  - Right way (exactly as prescribed and directed by your baby's provider).

*The above information is to help you better understand your baby's care. Always follow the instructions given by your baby's health-care provider and pharmacist. It's always OK to ask questions if you have concerns about your baby.*

### **Online Resources**

American Academy of Pediatrics  
[www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)

HealthFinder.gov  
[www.healthfinder.gov](http://www.healthfinder.gov)

Institute for Safe Medication Practices  
[www.consumermedsafety.org](http://www.consumermedsafety.org)

Kids Health  
[www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org)

Medline Plus: Drug Information  
[www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginfo/meds](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginfo/meds)

U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
[www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)